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## **CLAT IGNITE- November 2021**

### **(Monthly Current Affairs Magazine)**

**Dear Aspirant,**

- Since you are aware of the competition level in the various law exams, one thing is clear; the examinations are getting tougher and tougher. And in all the sections of various law entrance exams, the current affairs section is very unpredictable, in which aspirants face major hurdles.
- **Current Affairs** is a very important subject that needs to be covered strategically, and this plays a very important role in all the **Law Related UG Exams**. Thus, maintaining a monthly compilation of current affairs is highly recommended.
- It is extremely important to keep a tab on the major news and happenings that affect us socially and politically. One should be aware of the facts and be able to analyze the news, dissect it, and evaluate it from different dimensions while preparing for the CLAT exam.
- With this view, **BYJU'S Exam Prep** has come up with yet another amazing feature that will make your CLAT preparation easier and more streamlined. Presenting the **"CLAT IGNITE" Monthly Current Affairs Magazine.**

#### **Features of the CLAT IGNITE, Current Affairs Magazine**

- All the important news and views from newspapers that are required for the CLAT and Other Law-Entrance exams.
- It is divided into sections like National News, International Affairs, Science and Technology, Sports, Awards and Honours, etc.
- Each news is analyzed and dissected as per the CLAT exam.
- Magazines are available from July 2021.
- Passage-Based Current Affairs for practice with detailed solutions.
- Important One Liners of the month.
- Available in a convenient PDF format that you can download.

The thorough analysis of our "**CLAT IGNITE MAGAZINE**" and deep study-cum-practice of our "**CLAT IGNITE" Monthly Current Affairs Workbook**" will make you confident enough and exam-battle ready so that no question in the current affairs section of the law entrance exam will trouble you anymore.

**Note:** Sources used: TH, HT, IE, SCROLL, MINT, PIB, NOA, DDNEWS & etc.

**All the Best!!!!**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page No.
1. Top Stories of the Month: COP26, Farm Law Repealed, etc.	06
2. National News: Climate Equity Monitor	13
3. Sardar Patel Leadership Center	14
4. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan	15
5. Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (and many more news...)	17
6. International News: Iran Nuclear Deal	33
7. USA Joins ISA	36
8. Belarus-Poland Border Crisis	37
9. Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan	38
10. Barbados Newest Republic (and many more news...)	45
11. Economic & Financial News: HARBINGER 2021	48
12. India Largest Recipient of Remittance (and many more news..)	51
13. Ranks & Reports: LEADS Index	52
14. Climate Change Performance Index	52
15. NITI AAYOG SDG Urban Index	54
16. State News: Haryana SELC Act 2020	60
17. Eastern West Khasi Hills District	61
18. New Development projects in UP (and many more news...)	62
19. Honours & Awards: Booker Prize for Fiction	66
20. Padma Awards 2021	66
21. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 (and many more news...)	72
22. Appointments: Rahul Dravid new head coach for mens team	74
23. R. Harikumar: New Chief of Naval Staff	
24. Sports News: National Sports Awards 2021	79
25. ICC Mens T-20 World Cup 2021	82
26. Science & Defence News: INS Vizag & INS Vella	
27. Exercise Shakti, SITMEX 2021, Ex-DOSTI and many more...	85
28. Important One-Liners	92
29. Passage Based Practice Questions	97-99
30. Important Days and Dates	100-101

# TOP STORY

## 1. COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference:

- The UK hosted the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference from October 31 to November 13 (Extended by a day). The event saw leaders from more than 190 countries, thousands of negotiators, researchers, and citizens coming together to strengthen a global response to the threat of climate change.
- The conference comes months after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its assessment report on Earth's climate, highlighting heat waves, droughts, extreme rainfall and sea-level rise in the coming decades.
- The president of the conference was UK Cabinet Minister Alok Sharma.

### What is the Conference of Parties?

- COP comes under the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) which was formed in 1994. The UNFCCC was established to work towards "stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere." UNFCCC has 198 parties.
- COP members have been meeting every year since 1995 (COP1 was held in 1995 in Berlin).
- At COP3 held in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan the famous Kyoto protocol was adopted and was entered into force in 2005.
- India hosted the COP8 in 2002 in New Delhi.
- One of the most important conferences, COP21 took place from November 30 to December 11, 2015, in Paris, France. Member countries agreed to work together to 'limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.'

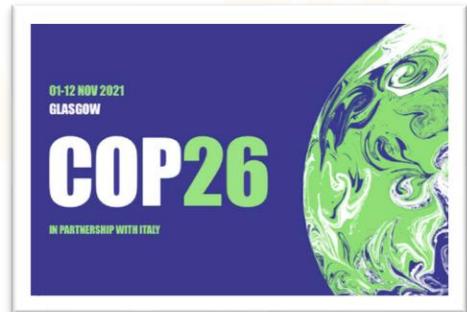
### Key Highlights of COP-26

#### I) Glasgow Climate Pact:

The Glasgow Pact was finally adopted by 197 parties 13 November after the COP26 deliberations were extended by a day. The conference was originally to have ended 12 November. The Glasgow agreement has emphasized that stronger action in the current decade was most critical to achieving the 1.5-degree target.

#### Accordingly, it has:

- Asked countries to strengthen their 2030 climate action plans, or NDCs (nationally-determined contributions), by next year.
- Requested the UN Secretary General to convene a meeting of the world leaders in 2023 to scale-up ambition of climate action.
- Called for a phase-down of coal, and phase-out of fossil fuels.



#### II) INDIA PLEDGES NEW CLIMATE CRISIS GOAL: NET ZERO BY 2070: "PANCHAMRIT"

As part of a five-point action plan, the Indian government has announced that the country will reach carbon neutrality by 2070.

#### What is 'net zero'?

Net Zero refers to a balance where emissions of greenhouse gases are offset by the absorption of an equivalent amount from the atmosphere. It is seen as a critical measure to successfully tackle climate change and its devastating consequences.

#### The other important commitments by India:

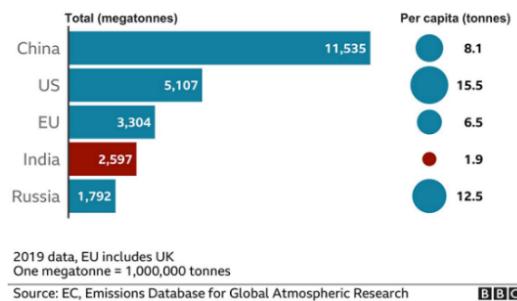
- India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 550GW by 2030.
- India will meet 50% of its energy requirement from renewable energy by 2030.
- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now to 2030.
- India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% (from a previous target of 35%)

## Important Facts

- India has the lowest per capita emissions of the world's major economies emitting 5% of the total, despite accounting for 17% of the world's population.
- In absolute terms, India is the fourth-largest carbon emitter after China and the United States.
- China has pledged to turn carbon neutral by 2060 while the US and the European Union – as a block, EU nations together account for the third-largest volume of emissions aim to do so by 2050.
- India hasn't submitted an updated nationally determined contribution (NDCs) with these commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) yet.

**India is the world's fourth biggest emitter of carbon dioxide**

Total and per capita emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> per year



BBC

## III) Green Grids-One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG):

At the COP-26 climate summit in Glasgow, India launched 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG). The idea for the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was put forth by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, at the **First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018**.

**Green Grids Initiative was a program of the United Kingdom (UK).** The United Kingdom and India agreed to combine forces of the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid initiative and have jointly launched the GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 summit.

The concept behind the OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time. The initiative will help to realize the "**three transitions**" of energy development.

- The transition of energy production from fossil fuel to clean energy dominance.
- The transition of energy allocation from local balance to cross-border and global distribution and
- The transition from coal, oil, and gas in energy consumption to electric-centric consumption.



## IV) World leaders made a pledge to end deforestation: An area of forest the size of 27 football pitches is lost every minute.

- On Nov. 2, leaders from 110 nations signed a joint pledge promising to end deforestation by 2030, with a budget of \$19.2 billion.
- Leaders representing over 85% of the world's forests committed to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030.

## V) Global Methane Pledge: Methane, a primary component of natural gas, accounts for about a quarter of all the heat trapped in the atmosphere since the pre-industrial era.

- The US and the European Union, the two largest natural gas consumers, launched the Global Methane Pledge at the United Nations Climate Conference COP26 in Glasgow. The Global Methane Pledge is the single biggest effort governments can make to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
- The **Global Methane Pledge** is a joint agreement to slash global methane emissions by **30% from 2020 levels in all industries by 2030**.
- India, China, and Russia were the major countries who have not signed up the pledge.**



## VI) Infrastructure for Resilient Island States:

- PM Modi launched **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States** on sidelines of climate summit in **Glasgow**. It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States.
- The launch of IRIS gives a new hope, confidence, and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries. **Co-hosted by Australia and UK, the IRIS launch event saw over 100 attendees**.
- The IRIS initiative is a part of the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states. CDRI was launched by Narendra Modi in September 2019 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.
- It is a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
  - ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among 40 leaders to back and sign up to the **UK's Glasgow Breakthroughs**, an international plan to deliver clean and affordable technology everywhere by 2030, launched at the COP26 climate summit.
  - ❖ **UK's landmark Net Zero Strategy, the Breakthrough Agenda** will see countries and businesses coordinate and strengthen their climate action each year to dramatically scale and speed up the development and deployment of clean technologies and drive down costs this decade.
  - ❖ **The Egyptian city of Sharm El Sheikh will host COP27 in 2022**. It was announced in the UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow and **United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 2023 edition** of the conference.

Source: Indian Express, Uk.gov

## 2. Swachh Survekshan 2021

- On 20<sup>th</sup> November, the President awarded the respective cities in the **6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2021** for their performance in maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation.
- It was launched **as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation. The **first survey was undertaken in 2016** and covered 73 cities. By 2020 the survey had grown to cover 4242 cities and was said to be the **largest cleanliness survey in the world**.
- In 2021 Survey, participated by **4,320 cities**, also saw an unprecedented number of citizens' feedback – over 5 crores, compared to 1.87 cores last year.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).



### Categories:

- **Less than 1 lakh Population:** Vita, Lonavala, and Saswad cities from Maharashtra have ranked first, second, and third Cleanest Cities respectively.
- **More than 1 Lakh Population:** For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** was awarded the title of **India's Cleanest City** under Swachh Survekshan, while Surat and Vijayawada bagged the second and third spots respectively.
- **Best Ganga Town:** Varanasi.
- **Cleanest Cantonment:** Ahmedabad Cantonment, followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.

### Cleanest State:

#### More than 100 Urban Local Bodies:

- **Chhattisgarh** has been awarded as the 'Cleanest State' of India **for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year**.
- **Karnataka** emerged as the '**Fastest Mover State**'.

#### Less than 100 Urban Local Bodies:

- **Jharkhand** won the 'Cleanest State' of India **for the second time** in this category.
- **Mizoram** emerged as the '**Fastest Mover State**'.

**Prerak Daaur Samman:** This is a new performance category introduced under SS 2021, five cities – Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi Municipal Council and Tirupati were categorized as ‘Divya’ (Platinum).

- **Other Awards: Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge:** Under the **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge**, the top performer cities are Indore, Navi Mumbai, Nellore, and Dewas across different population categories among 246 participating cities while the top performer states are Chhattisgarh and Chandigarh.
- **5-star rated Garbage Free Cities in India:** Under the **Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities**, 9 cities were certified as 5-star cities while 143 cities were certified as 3-star. The **Star Rating Protocol** was launched by MoHUA in 2018 to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to achieve Garbage Free status, and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of sustainable cleanliness.

Source: *The Indian Express*, MoHUA.gov.in

### 3. New Covid Variant: OMICRON: The Battle is still on:

- A new **Covid-19 variant has been identified in South Africa**.
- The **World Health Organization** has classified a new variant of the novel coronavirus, which belongs to a lineage named **B.1.1.529**, as a ‘variant of concern’ and named it "**OMICRON**"
- This variant was first identified by scientists in South Africa, but has spread to nearly a dozen countries including Australia, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, Hong Kong, Botswana and Belgium.

The **Network for Genomics Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA)** had identified the variant on 29th November 2021. It had detected a group of related **SARS-CoV-2** viruses, which belong to a lineage named **B.1.1.529**.

#### What we do know so far about Omicron?

- New variants continue to emerge as **SARS-CoV-2** spreads, and the significance of each mutation becomes known after a period of time.
- Health authorities worldwide need to keep a **constant watch to identify** which ones are more important than others. It was as part of such an exercise that the NGS-SA detected **B.1.1.529**.
- From what is known currently, B.1.1.529 has **multiple spike protein mutations**, and preliminary analysis suggests it is **highly infectious**.
- **South Africa** has reported a **four-fold increase** in new cases over the last two weeks, coinciding with the emergence of B.1.1.529.
- **Omicron is placed in the most-troubling category of Covid-19 variants**, along with the globally-dominant Delta plus its weaker rivals Alpha, Beta and Gamma.
- **This variant has a large number of mutations**. Some of them are cause for serious concern because they may allow the new variant to evade immunity obtained from a past infection or via a vaccine.
- However, there are **no reliable estimates** of just how much more transmissible the Omicron variant is compared to previous strains of the virus.
- **The new Variants could kick off new wave(s) of epidemic transmission.**

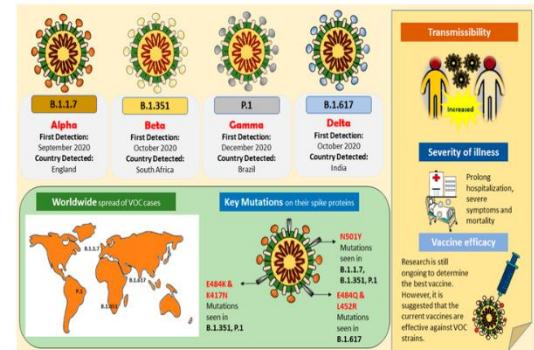
#### Are the symptoms any different?

- The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of South Africa has said that currently, “**no unusual symptoms**” have been reported following infection with the B.1.1.529 variant.
- It has highlighted the fact that, as with other infectious variants such as Delta, some individuals are **asymptomatic**.

## Variants of Concern

The WHO currently lists 5 variants of concern:

- Omicron (B.1.1.529)**, identified in southern Africa in November 2021
- Delta (B.1.617.2)**, which emerged in India in late 2020 and spread around the world
- Gamma (P.1)**, which emerged in Brazil in late 2020
- Beta (B.1.351)**, which emerged in South Africa in early 2020
- Alpha (B.1.1.7)**, which merged in Britain in late 2020.



### Situation In India:

Seroprevalence studies indicate that a large proportion of the population has already been exposed to the virus providing some level of protection to subsequent infections. Further, the immunisation campaign has gained momentum.



- Approximately 44% of Indian adults have been **fully vaccinated** and 82% have received at least one dose.
- Scientists believe that prior infection followed by one or two doses of vaccination may have a larger protective effect than two doses of the vaccination alone.

### What precautions should one take?

- All the expert bodies have stressed that **vaccination remains critical**, especially to protect groups at **high risk of hospitalisation and death**. Real-time data have shown that high vaccination rates also significantly reduce the strain on health systems.
- The emergence of the new variant shows once again that the pandemic is far from over — and **Covid-appropriate behaviour is critical for breaking the chain of transmission: masking, social distancing, good ventilation in all shared spaces, and washing or sanitising hands and surfaces regularly**.

Even after you have been vaccinated against COVID-19, you must keep taking precautions



Source: Indian Express.

## 4. Farm Laws Repealed

The Lok Sabha Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, passed the **Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021** without any discussion. The Bill, which is aimed at repealing three farm laws, was introduced in the house by **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar**.

### The Three Bills:

The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021 is aimed at repealing the three farm laws –

- 1. Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020,**
- 2. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020,**
- 3. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 – and amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**

The Bill was necessitated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government's intention to repeal the three laws in view of ongoing farmers' protests against these laws on November 19. Two days after the Prime Minister's announcement, the Union Cabinet cleared the draft of the Bill.

## Reason Given by Agriculture Minister for repeal

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who piloted the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, has stated several reasons for taking this legislative step. In a statement of objects and reasons, which forms the part of the Bill, Tomar said, ***"Even though only a group of farmers are protesting against these laws, the Government has tried hard to sensitise the farmers on the importance of the Farm Laws and explain the merits through several meetings and other forums."***
- ***"Without taking away the existing mechanisms available to farmers, new avenues were provided for trade of their produce. Besides, farmers were free to select the avenues of their choice where they can get more prices for their produce without any compulsion,"*** the minister stated.

## Farm Bill Journey: The Timeline

THE HINDU

### LONG BATTLE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on the repeal of the three contentious farm laws came after nearly a year of relentless protest by farmers. A brief timeline of the struggle:



Moment of relief: Farmers celebrating the announcement on the repeal of the farm laws, at Singhu border in Delhi on Friday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

**Sept. 15 - 22, 2020:**  
The three farm Bills are passed in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by voice vote

**Sept. 25, 2020:**  
Farmers across India come out in protest in response to a call by the AIKSCC, an umbrella body of farmers

**Sept. 26, 2020:**  
The Shiromani Akali Dal quits the BJP-led NDA over the farm laws

**Dec. 3, 2020:**  
Government holds the first round of

talks with farmers but the meeting remains inconclusive

**Dec. 9, 2020:** Farmer leaders reject the Union Government's proposal to amend the three laws



**Dec. 11, 2020:**  
Bharatiya Kisan Union moves the Supreme Court against the three agricultural laws

**Jan. 12, 2021:** The SC stays implementation of the laws; sets up a four-member committee

**Jan. 26, 2021:**  
Protesters clash with the police during a tractor parade called by farmer unions

**Jan. 29, 2021:**  
Government proposes to suspend the laws for a year

and a half and sets up a joint committee, but farmers reject the proposal

**July 22, 2021:**  
Nearly 200 protesting farmers start a parallel "Monsoon Session", Kisan Sansad, near the Parliament House

**Oct. 22, 2021:**  
The SC observes that it was not against people's right to protest even on matters that are sub-judice, but states that public roads cannot be blocked indefinitely

**As the Prime Minister pointed out in his address, the Government of India will keep serving our farmers and always support them in their endeavours — AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister**

**Country's annadatas have made arrogance bow its head down through satyagraha. Congratulations on this victory against injustice! Jai Hind, Jai Hind ka Kisan — RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader**

Image source: The Hindu

The protests began on November 25 last year, when thousands of farmers marched towards the national capital demanding a complete repeal of the legislation, as part of a "Dilli Chalo" campaign.

- **May 15, 2020:** As part of the 3rd Tranche under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to support the Indian economy in the fight against COVID-19, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces the government's intention to enact three farm laws.
- **June 3, 2020:** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took "historic decisions" and approved three ordinances— Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020; The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020; and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.
- **June 5, 2020:** The President of India promulgates three ordinances. The new farm laws came into effect immediately.
- **September 15, 2020:** Lok Sabha passes one of the three farm bills— Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- **September 17, 2020:** Two other farm bills— Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020— passed by Lok Sabha.
- **September 20, 2020:** Rajya Sabha passes two farm bills—Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- **September 22, 2020:** The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Rajya Sabha.
- **November 26, 2020:** Farmers marching towards Delhi faced water cannons, tear gas as the police tried to disperse them at Haryana's Ambala district.

- **November 28, 2020:** Home Minister Amit Shah offered to hold talks with farmers as soon as they vacate Delhi borders and move to the designated protest site in Burari. However, farmers rejected his offer, demanding to hold the protest at Jantar Mantar.
- **December 3, 2020:** The government held first round of talks with representatives of farmers but the meeting remained inconclusive.
- **December 5, 2020:** The second round of talks between farmers and the Centre also remained inconclusive.
- **December 8, 2020:** Farmers gave a call for Bharat Bandh. Farmers from other states also gave their support to the call.
- **December 11, 2020:** Bharatiya Kisan Union moved the Supreme Court against the three farm laws.
- **December 21, 2020:** Farmers held a one-day hunger strike at all protest sites.
- **January 7, 2021:** The Supreme Court agreed to hear petitions challenging the new laws and those against the protests on January 11.
- **January 12, 2021:** The Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three contentious farm laws and set up a four-member committee to make recommendations on the legislations after listening to all stakeholders.
- **January 26, 2021:** On Republic day, thousands of protestors clashed with the police during the tractor parade called by farmer unions on January 26, demanding a repeal of the laws.
- **February 5, 2021:** The cyber-crime cell of the Delhi Police has registered an FIR on charges of "sedition", "criminal conspiracy" and "promoting hatred" against the creators of a 'toolkit' on farmer protests, which was shared by Thunberg.
- **February 18, 2021:** Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella body of farmer unions spearheading the agitations last week, called for a nationwide 'rail roko' protest.
- **March 06, 2021:** Farmers complete 100 days at Delhi's borders.
- **May 27, 2021:** Farmers observed a 'black day' to mark six months of the agitation, and burned effigies of the government.
- **June 5, 2021:** Protesting farmers observe Sampoorn Krantikari Diwas (total revolution day) to mark the first year of the promulgation of the Farm Laws.
- **August 7, 2021:** Leaders of 14 opposition parties met at Parliament House and decided to visit Kisan Sansad at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.
- **October 22, 2021:** The Supreme Court observed that it was not against people's right to protest even on matters that are sub judice, but made it clear that such protesters cannot block public roads indefinitely.
- **October 29, 2021:** The Delhi Police started removing barricades from the Ghazipur border where farmers have been protesting against the Centre's three new agriculture laws.
- **November 19, 2021:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to repeal the three contentious agriculture laws that were enacted on September 17, 2020.

## National News

### 1. Amit Shah launches Dairy Sahakar scheme in Gujarat

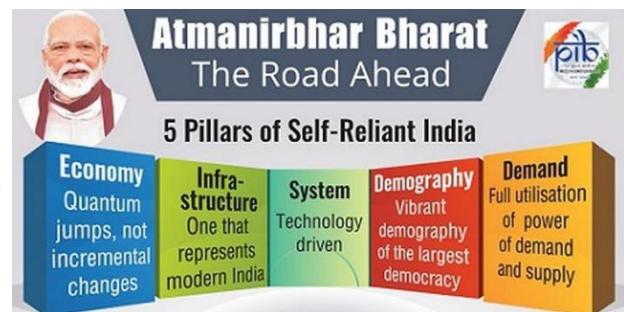
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, **Amit Shah** launched the "**Dairy Sahakar**" scheme at **Anand, Gujarat**.
- With a total investment of **Rs 5000 cr**, scheme will be implemented by NCDC under Ministry of Cooperation to realize the vision, "**from cooperation to prosperity**".
- Under the scheme financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for various activities within the overall objectives of **Doubling the farmers income** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.



#### About Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan:

- Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-reliant India campaign is the vision of new India envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. On 12 May 2020, our PM raised a clarion call to the nation giving a kick start to the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (Self-reliant India campaign) and announced the Special economic and comprehensive package of INR 20 lakh crores - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP – to fight COVID-19 pandemic in India.
- The aim is to make the country and its citizens independent and self-reliant in all senses. He further outlined five pillars of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat – Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand. Finance Minister further announces Government Reforms and Enablers across Seven Sectors under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
- The government took several bold reforms such as Supply Chain Reforms for Agriculture, Rational Tax Systems, Simple & Clear Laws, Capable Human Resource and Strong Financial System.



### 2. India unveils online climate dashboard

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2021

- India launched an online dashboard - the '**Climate Equity Monitor**' to assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions besides energy and resource consumption across the world.
- The dashboard also tracks the climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries.
- The website has been conceptualized and developed by independent researchers from India -- the **Climate Change Group at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai**.



#### Climate Equity Monitor:

- India has also been pushing for climate equity in terms of actions which need to be taken by the developed countries to achieve climate and energy goals.
- According to the climate equity monitor, which tracks various aspects of climate change, countries including the US, Russia, Australia and most European nations have exceeded their fair share of the global carbon budget whereas India, China and countries from Africa and South America have consumed less than their fair share.

### India's Efforts:

- India recently announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.
- India being a big economy and being the fourth largest global emitter (including EU) was one of the countries that was getting a fair bit of push for announcing a net zero emissions target.
- India made the announcement keeping its own considerations in mind, however, 2070 is not the target the world was pushing for.
- India had also set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022 and 450 GW by 2030.
- India committed to make 40% of its energy basket non-fossil-fuel-based and 50% of its energy market to be renewable.
- India also made the commitment for the reduction of one billion tons of carbon emissions.

### 3. Union Minister dedicates 'Sardar Patel Leadership Centre' to the Nation

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2021

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh dedicated "**Sardar Patel Leadership Centre**" to the nation at **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie**.
- The Centre aims to lay the foundation capacity building for future generations of Civil Servants
- It will emerge as a **Huge Resource Centre** to provide continuous study and learning opportunities to Civil Servants from India and Abroad.
- The center was dedicated on the occasion of **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.



### About National Unity Day:

- Every year, the National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The day was celebrated for the first time in 2014, when the Government of India decided to celebrate Patel's birthday as the National Unity Day to recognise his monumental contribution and service to the nation.
- On this day, several events like Run For Unity, a nationwide marathon to increase awareness about Patel's contributions, National Unity pledge, Ekta Parade, etc. are organised.
- In 2018, the Government unveiled the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in Patel's honour.
- It is the tallest statue (182-meter) in the world.
- In January 2020, it was added in the 'Eight Wonders' of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- On 31st Oct. 2020, Prime Minister launched the seaplane service from Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity, Kevadia.

### About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **Born:** 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- First Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- Headed various Committees of the Constituent Assembly of India (Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas and Provincial Constitution Committee)
- Known as the "Iron Man of India" for playing an important role in unification and integration of Indian princely states into the Indian federation and for convincing princely states to align with the Indian Union.
- Remembered as the '**Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants**' as he established the modern all-India services system.
- **Death:** 15th December 1950 in Bombay.



## 5. Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express becomes 1st IMS certified Shatabdi

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2021

- **Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express** becomes the 1st **Integrated Management Systems (IMS)** certified Shatabdi.
- It received the certificate for world-class maintenance of the train, environment-friendly resources.
- The train's maintenance is handled by **Basin Bridge Coaching Depot of Indian Railways**.
- Also, it becomes the 2nd mail/express train on the Indian Railways network **Habibganj-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Habibganj Bhopal Express** that has received the certification in March 2021.



### Main features of Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train

- The train with state-of-the-art LHB coaches
- Running on HOG thereby reducing pollution and prevention of resource depletion (Diesel)
- Maintaining 100% passenger amenities in working condition, 100% HOG and 100 % Bio digester toilet operations and 100% functional sub-pantry equipment
- Quality air conditioning, lighting and other electrical amenities.
- On board house keeping facility (5-Stage cleaning)
- Energy conservation through LED lights and electrical fittings
- Braille signage seat indication number
- Pre-loaded Wi-fi Infotainment System
- Automatic sliding door closer for passenger coupe in Executive coach
- Reflective coach indication and toilet Toilet Occupancy Indication
- Aesthetic vinyl wrapping for coach interiors
- Automatic air fresheners for passenger coupes and toilets
- Comfortable seats with high quality upholstery
- All the coaches are provided with fire extinguishers with fire suppression system fitted in power cars
- Unified information sticker in all coaches with emergency contact numbers for the benefit of passengers.

## 6. India's largest landfill biogas plant launched in Hyderabad

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- **Ramky Enviro** has inaugurated one of the world's 1st gas-to-compressed biogas plant at the **Hyderabad**.
- The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into compressed biogas as an automotive fuel.
- The project offers significant benefits such as **carbon sequestration** and reduced emissions of GHGs into the environment and contributes to the greening of the automotive industry.
- The end product of the plant will be sold to Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd.

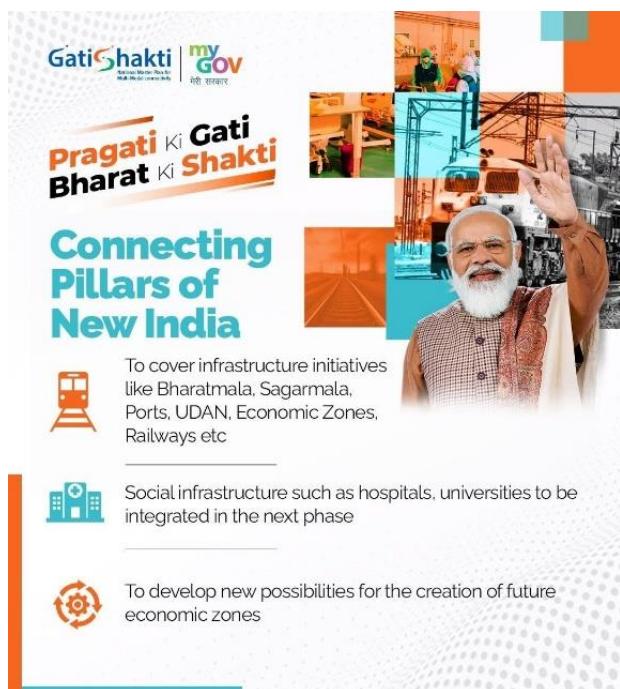


## 7. GoI form empowered group to review implementation of PM GatiShakti

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Centre has constituted **20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)** to review and monitor the mechanism for the development and implementation of **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**.
- Chairperson: **Cabinet Secretary**.
- Head of Logistics Division will be the Member and Convenor.
- **Head of Logistics division (Dept of Commerce)** will act as convener of EGoS for its Terms of Reference (ToRs).

## About the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).



A Giant Stride in India's \$5 Trillion Economy Goal

## Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Multimodal Connectivity  
Infrastructure to various  
Economic Zones

Targets upto 2024-25 for Ministry of  
Shipping



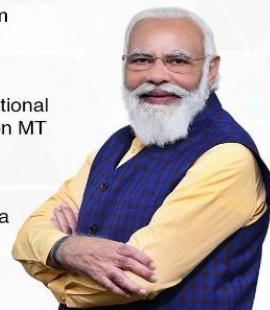
Increase in Cargo capacity at the  
Ports to 1,759 MMTPA from  
1,282 MMTPA in 2020



Cargo movement on all National  
Waterways will be 95 million MT  
from 74 million MT in 2020



Cargo movement on Ganga  
to be increased from 9 to  
29 million MT



- Aim:** To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
- The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.
- Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.
- It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.

## 8. Dharmendra Pradhan launched Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2021

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched **Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools**, **Bhasha Sangam Mobile App** and **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Mobile Quiz**.
- Bhasha Sangam:** It is an initiative of Ministry of Education under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Quiz game:** It is targeted towards children, youngsters for helping them learn more about different regions, states, culture, etc.

 MHRD | Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of School Education and Literacy



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## 9. Shipping Minister inaugurates five vessels at Cochin Shipyard Limited

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- **Shipping Minister** has inaugurated simultaneous launching of **five vessels at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**.
- He also inaugurated the launching function of three Floating Border Out-Posts (FBOP) for the Border Security Force and two Fully Electric Autonomous Ferries for ASKO Maritime AS, Norway, which are amongst the world's first Autonomous Ferries.
- Also, Union Minister for Ports has inaugurated new **Radars and Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) of Cochin Port Trust**.
- VTMS commissioned in **Cochin Port in 2009** has been upgraded with a state-of-the-art system consisting of 2 new radars, 1 AIS Base station, 3 VHF Radios and associated software and hardware installed at ₹5.8-Cr.
- It is an essential tool for enhancing safety of navigation in the port by monitoring and regulating the shipping movements.



## 10. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah launches 'Ayushman CAPF' health card

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2021

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the '**Ayushman CAPF Scheme**' health cards at the national level in **New Delhi**.
- The scheme has been designed to cover all serving personnel and their dependents of the seven **Central Armed Police Forces**.
- He handed over '**Ayushman CAPF Scheme**' health cards to the Director General, National Security Guard for distribution to NSG personnel
- The scheme is a joint initiative of the Home Ministry, Health Ministry and **National Health Authority (NHA)**.



## 11. Power Minister inaugurates Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in J&K

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Power Minister **R K Singh** virtually inaugurated the diversion of **Marusudar River of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in Kishtwar, J&K**.
- **Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW)** is being constructed by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPL)** and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation.
- **Marusudar River** is a major tributary of the **Chenab River**.
- Diversion of the River will pave the way for acceleration in construction activities of the Project.



### About Pakal Dul HE Project

Pakal Dul HE Project is a 1000 MW project. It is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects [P] Ltd. It is a joint venture company of JKSPDC (Govt of J&K) and NHPC Ltd (Govt of India Enterprise). CVPPPL has been charged with 3094 MW Hydro Power Projects for construction in J&K. The dam will divert water to the south using a 10 km long headrace tunnel. This project was awarded to a consortium of domestic & foreign countries comprising Bharat Heavy Electricals, AFCONS and Jay Prakash Associate, in February 2014.

### About Marusudar River

Marusudar river is the largest river tributary of Chenab River. It starts at the Nunkun glacier of the Warwan Valley and joins Chenab at Bhandarkoot in the Kishtwar district. It runs for 133 kilometres. On this river, 1000MW Pakal Dul Dam and 800MW Bursar Hydroelectric Project are under construction.

### 12. IREDA launches 'Whistle Blower' portal

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has launched 'Whistle-blower Portal' as a part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2021'
- It has been developed by **IT Team of the company** and will help the IREDA employees to raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power among other things.
- **IREDA:** PSU under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) established as Non-Banking Financial Institution
- Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA: **Pradip Kumar Das**

### 13. Civil Aviation Ministry declares Srinagar as major airport

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Ministry of Civil Aviation declared **Srinagar airport** as a 'major airport' under **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Act, 2008 (AERA)** in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (i) of Section 2 of Airports Economic Authority Act, 2008.
- The move will allow AERA to determine the tariff, including development fee and passenger service fee, for aeronautical services at the Srinagar airport.
- Previously, **AAI will determine tariff for the Srinagar airport.**



### About AAI:

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on **1st April 1995** by merging erstwhile **National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India**.
- The merger brought into existence a single Organization entrusted with the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure both on the ground and air space in the country.
- AAI manages a total of **137 airports** which include **24 International airports** (3 Civil Enclaves), **10 Custom Airports** (4 Civil Enclaves) and **103 Domestic airports** (23 Civil Enclaves). AAI provides air navigation services over 2.8 million square nautical miles of air space.
- **Shri Sanjeev Kumar**, an IAS officer of 1993 batch, Maharashtra Cadre has assumed charge of Chairman, Airports Authority of India on 07.04.2021.

### 14. Srinagar joins UNESCO creative cities network

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- **Srinagar (summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir)** has been selected to join **UNESCO creative cities network (UCCN)** for the vibrant cultural ethos of the old city
- It has been designated as a creative city of craft and folk arts by UNESCO
- Apart from it, 48 cities have been added to the network of 246 cities following their designation in recognition of their commitment to placing culture and creativity at the heart of their development.



### Other Indian Cities on UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- Jaipur- Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)
- Varanasi- Creative city of Music (2015)
- Chennai- Creative city of Music (2017)
- Mumbai – Film (2019)
- Hyderabad – Gastronomy (2019)



#### About UNESCO and UNESCO Creative Cities Network:

##### UNESCO:



- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the arts, the sciences, and culture. It was founded on, 16 November 1945.
- It has 193 member states and 11 associate members. It is headquartered in Paris, France.
- The UN cultural agency UNESCO on 9th November 2021, re-elected France's Audrey Azoulay as its director-general for a second mandate.

##### UNSECO Creative Cities Network:

- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a project of UNESCO launched in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities which recognized creativity as a major factor in their urban development.
- The network aims to foster mutual international cooperation with and between member cities committed to invest in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.
- The overall situation and activities within the Network is reported in the UCCN Membership Monitoring Reports, each for a 4-year period for a particular city.

## 17. Centre amends the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Dept of Consumer Affairs has omitted **Rule 5 of Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities)**, Rules 2011 defining Schedule II prescribing the pack sizes of various types of commodities to safeguard interest of consumers.
- New provision has been introduced to indicate unit sale price on prepacked commodities, which will allow easier comparison of the prices of the commodities at the time of purchase.
- The amendments will come into effect from **1st April 2022**.



### DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

(Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution,  
krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, Government of India)

## 18. Department of Justice launches 'Tele-Law on Wheels' Campaign

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- **Department of Justice** has started week-long '**Tele-Law on Wheels**' campaign from 8th to 14th November 2021.
- As part of this campaign, series of activities are being undertaken to empower people through pre-litigation advice for rightfully claiming their entitlements and for timely redressal of their difficulties.
- **Special Login week** is also being organized for encouraging those in need to seek legal advice and consultation through tele-and video conferencing facilities.



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## 19. Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme released

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Union Minister Virendra Kumar has released Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme '**In-service Training & Sensitization of Key functionaries of Central & State Governments and Local Bodies**' in New
- **Rehabilitation Council India (RCI)** is the nodal agency for implementation of Central Sector Plan Scheme at national level
- RCI has developed target groups wise separate Training Modules in Hindi and English, which will be translated in regional languages as well.



## 20. Union Minister launches Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** has launched first-ever **Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators** to mark 75th Year of India's independence.
- It is a pan India Scheme that envisages **Star College** in every district of India supported by **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**.
- It will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach.
- The plan envisages organizing workshops, meetings per month; handhold at colleges particularly in the rural areas.



## 22. Union Minister inaugurates Biotechnology Demonstration Centre

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated new **Biotechnology Centre for Northeast tribals** in remote area of Arunachal Pradesh at Kimin
- This 'Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development' will greatly help in improving the socio-economic status of tribal people in the State.
- Centre is focusing on 3 major programs:
  - State-of-the-Art Orchidarium with establishing satellite units
  - Banana fibre extraction and processing units
  - Aroma Unit.

## 23. Indian Railways to come up with World's Tallest Pier Bridge in Manipur

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- **Indian Railways** is constructing the **tallest pier railway bridge of the world** in the state of Manipur.
- It is being built at a height of 141 metres.
- Currently, tallest pier bridge record is of Mala-Rijeka viaduct built at Montenegro in Europe with 139 metre height.
- The ambitious bridge project of Indian Railways in Manipur is part of Jiribam-Imphal railway line, which is a part of broad-gauge line.
- It will enable passengers to cover 111 km of distance in 2-2.5 hrs



### About the World's highest railway bridge: The Chenab Bridge

**Chenab Bridge:** World's highest railway bridge is all set to connect Kashmir to Kanyakumari! The inception of the game-changer Chenab bridge happened in the year 2004 and the arch closure of this iconic bridge in Jammu and Kashmir was completed recently. The bridge is a part of the Indian Railways' Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link (USBRL) project. It is said that the completion of the steel arch was one of the most challenging parts of the bridge over the Chenab river. A few days ago, the last piece of metal of 5.6m was fitted at the highest point and joined the two arms of the arch that stretch towards each other.

#### Key features of the Arch of the Chenab Bridge:

- The iconic Arch Bridge on the Chenab river is being built by the national transporter as a part of the USBRL project to connect the valley of Kashmir to the rest of the nation.
- The bridge is 1315m long and being 359m above the river bed level, it is known as the world's highest rail bridge.
- The Arch of the iconic bridge will be 35m higher than the world-famous Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.
- The construction of the bridge involved the fabrication of 28,660 MT steel, 66,000 cum concrete, 10 lakh cum earthwork as well as 26 km motorable roads.
- The Arch of the bridge comprises steel boxes. In a bid to improve the stability, concrete will be filled in boxes of the Arch.
- The Arch's overall weight is 10,619 MT.
- In a first, erection of the members of the arch by overhead cable cranes has been done on Indian Railways.
- The most sophisticated software called 'Tekla' was utilized for structural detailing.
- Structural steel is suitable for -10°C to 40°C temperature range.



### 24. All India Radio launches #AIRNxt programme

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- All India Radio has launched new programme #AIRNxt, as part of the celebrations under ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav for the voices that represent Young India, starting from November 28, 2021.
- Under this, AIR stations, in all States and UTs across India, will give opportunity to youngsters from local colleges, universities to take part in AIR programming
- It is the biggest single theme show in all major Indian languages and dialects.



#### All India Radio : The Profile

- All India Radio, officially known since 1957 as Akashvani, is the national public radio broadcaster of India and is a division of Prasar Bharati. It was established in 1936. As India's National Broadcaster and also the premier Public Service Broadcaster, All India Radio (AIR) has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses since its inception, truly living up to its motto – 'Bahujan Hitaya : Bahujan Sukhaya'. One of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves, AIR's home service comprises 479 stations (view list of stations) today located across the country, reaching nearly 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population. AIR originates programming in 23 languages and 179 dialects.

## 25. MSDE launches pilot projects to revive and catalyze traditional Namda Craft

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched two projects:
  - 'Revival of Namda craft of Kashmir' as a special pilot project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
  - Upskilling of artisans and weavers of Kashmir under Recognition of Prior Learning component of PMKVY
- Aim:** to boost and preserve the traditional Namda craft of Kashmir and upskill the local weavers and artisans
- Namda craft** is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique.



## 26. Union Health Ministry releases NFHS-5 Phase II Findings

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Health Ministry has released Factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India and 14 States/UTs (clubbed under Phase-II) of the **2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)**.
- India has also officially hit total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.0 that indicates a decrease from the 2.2 in the NFHS-4.
- Proportion of anaemic children (5-59 months) increased from **58% to 67%**.

### Fact Sheets

### KEY INDICATORS

22 STATES/UTS FROM PHASE - I

National Family  
Health Survey (NFHS-5)

2019-20

### Key Highlights of the Survey:

- Improvements have been witnessed in several dimensions such as educational attainment, institutional deliveries, vaccinations, infant mortality etc.
- Decline in TFR, a Major Positive: The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has been falling over time and has now reached (at 2.0) just below the replacement rate of 2.1.
- Difference in Sex Ratio at Birth and at Adulthood: For the first time in India, between 2019-21, there were 1,020 adult women per 1,000 men.
- However, the data shall not undermine the fact that India still has a sex ratio at birth (SRB) more skewed towards boys than the natural SRB (which is 952 girls per 1000 boys).
- Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra are the major states with low SRB.
- Poor Performance in Dealing with Anaemia: The incidence of anaemia in under-5 children (from 58.6 to 67%), women (53.1 to 57%) and men (22.7 to 25%) has worsened in all States of India (20%-40% incidence is considered moderate).
- Barring Kerala (at 39.4%), all States are in the "severe" category.
- Performance of Malnutrition Indicators: The three indicators of malnutrition, stunting (low height-for-age), wasting (low weight-for-height) and underweight (low weight-for-age), show an overall improvement.
- Additionally, an increase is witnessed in the proportion of overweight children, women and men which also reflects malnutrition leading to serious health consequences in the form of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
- Limited Male Engagement in Family Planning: Female sterilisation continues to dominate as the modern method of contraceptives in States like Andhra Pradesh (98%), Telangana (93%), Kerala (88%), Karnataka (84%), Bihar (78%) and Maharashtra (77%).

## 27. Govt forms 'Central Vista Oversight Committee' to expedite pace of project

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- The Union govt formed a high-level '**Central Vista Oversight Committee**' for 2 years to monitor and expedite the pace of the project.
- The committee will be headed by former finance secretary **Ratan P Watal**.
- It include **P K Tiwari, Shailendar Roy**, Professor Mausam and member and a Joint Secretary **MoHUA** as the convener.
- The committee will ensure a multi-agency, multi-stakeholder coordination for seamless integration of different project works.



### About Central Vista Project:

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs proposed a Central Vista redevelopment project in 2019.

#### The project envisages:

- Constructing a triangular Parliament building next to the existing one.
- Constructing Common Central Secretariat.
- Revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath — from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.
- North and South Block to be repurposed as museums.
- Currently, the Central Vista of New Delhi houses Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block, India Gate, National Archives among others.
- Parliament House building was designed by both Lutyens and Baker.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan was designed by Edwin Lutyens.
- The Secretariat which includes both north and south block was designed by Herbert Baker.

## 28. Govt changes base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI) from 1963-65 to 2016

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Ministry of Labour** has changed the **base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI) from 1963-65 to 2016** on the recommendation of Expert Group on Minimum Wages & National Floor Wages committee.
- Committee was headed by **S.P.Mukherjee**
- New series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) from July 2016 to July 2020 based on the new series 2016=100 has been released by govt.
- Total of 37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100) as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series.

## 29. River Cities Alliance and National Urban River Management Plan launched

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has launched **River Cities Alliance and National Urban River Management Plan for Kanpur**
- River cities alliance: It is for clean and preserving rivers across India and its core motto is to improve rivers and cities together. 30 major cities joined hands for this
- It will have 3 broad themes: **Networking, Capacity Building, Technical Support**
- Secretariat of the Alliance will be set up at **National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA)**



#### The Alliance:

- Alliance began with the Ganga basin cities, it was extended to include cities beyond the basin as well. The participating cities in the River Cities Alliance are:
- Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Srinagar, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna, Berhampore, Hooghly-Chinsurah, Howrah, Jangipur, Maheshtala, Rajmahal, Sahibganj, Ayodhya, Bijnor, Farrukhabad, Kanpur, Mathura-Vrindavan, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Aurangabad, Chennai, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Pune, Udaipur and Vijayawada.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA) have collaborated together to launch the RCA.

#### Other Initiatives:

- **Namami Gange Programme:** It is an Integrated Conservation Mission to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- **Ganga Action Plan:** It was the first River Action Plan that was taken up by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 1985, to improve the water quality by the interception, diversion, and treatment of domestic sewage.
- **National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA):** It was formed by the Government of India in the year 2009 under Section-3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Clean Ganga Fund:** In 2014, it was formed for cleaning up of the Ganga, setting up of waste treatment plants, and conservation of biotic diversity of the river.

## 30. PM Gati Shakti- BISAG-N team conducts capacity building exercises

Date: 24<sup>th</sup>. Nov. 2021

- **BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics)** has developed **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** in a dynamic GIS platform
- It will be further developed as a Digital Master Planning tool with Project Management tools, dynamic dashboards, MIS reports generation etc.
- **Aim:** to facilitate the process, capacity building exercise is being conducted by the BISAG-N team with senior-level officers of relevant ministries and departments.



#### About PM Gati Shakti NMP:

- To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
- The **Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline** that was launched in 2019.
- It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending **4G connectivity** to all villages is another aim. Adding **17,000 kms** to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to **2 lakh kms**, creation of more than **200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes**.
- The scheme is in synergy with the **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)**.
- The NMP has been announced to provide a clear framework for monetisation and give potential investors a ready list of assets to generate investment interest.

## 31. PM Modi lays the foundation stone of Noida International Airport

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of **Noida International Airport in Jewar, UP**
- Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state to have 5 international airports.
- **Jewar airport** will play a crucial role in helping the region attract huge investments, boost rapid industrial growth, and enable reach of local products to national-international markets
- It will be the 2nd international airport to come up in Delhi NCR after Indira Gandhi International Airport.



## 32. Jitendra Singh inaugurates separate Bench of CAT at Srinagar

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated a separate **Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** at Srinagar to deal exclusively with service matters of govt employees
- After this, **DoPT- CAT, CIC and CVC** are fully functional in UTs of J&K and Ladakh
- Jurisdiction of Jammu Bench of CAT extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and Leh from UT of Ladakh, while jurisdiction of Srinagar Bench extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and Kargil from Ladakh



### About Central Administrative Tribunal:

- **Article 323 - A:** The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under Article 323 - A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- **Benches:** There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India.
- The CAT is a specialist body consisting of Administrative Members and Judicial Members who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice. It was established in **1985**.
- A Chairman who has been a **sitting or retired Judge of a High Court** heads the Central Administrative Tribunal.
- The Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice in deciding cases and is not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the **Civil Procedure Code**.
- the Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the **same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court**.
- The orders of Central Administrative Tribunal are challenged by way of Writ Petition under **Article 226/227 of the Constitution** before respective High Court in whose territorial jurisdiction the Bench of the Tribunal is situated.

## 33. Railway Minister announces introduction of 'Bharat Gaurav Trains'

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Minister of Railways, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has announced the introduction of theme-based tourist circuit trains '**Bharat Gaurav Trains**' to tap the vast tourism potential of India
- Service Provider will be free to decide theme like Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture, Ramayana trains for places connected with Lord Shri Ram etc.
- Service Provider will offer all-inclusive package to tourist.
- These trains will have 14 to 20 coaches



### About Bharat Gaurav Scheme:

- Under the scheme, now trains have a third segment for tourism. Till now, the Railways had passenger segments and goods segments.
- These trains are not regular trains that will run as per a timetable but will be more on the lines of the Ramayana Express being run by the IRCTC.
- It was announced under the theme-based tourist circuit trains. These trains will be run, by both private players and IRCTC, in theme-based circuits
- By theme-based tourism (circuits), the railways means trains like Guru Kripa that goes to all places related to Guru Nanak or a Ramayan-themed train to touch upon places related to Lord Ram.
- These trains will help realise India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world. They will also help in tapping the vast tourism potential of India.

### Tourism in India

- Tourism in India is important for the country's economy and is growing rapidly.
- According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the travel & tourism industry's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was USD 121.9 billion in 2020 and this is expected to reach USD 512 billion by 2028.
- In India, the industry's direct contribution to the GDP is expected to record an annual growth rate of 10.35% between 2019 and 2028.
- Also, the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019 ranked India 34th out of 140 countries overall, showing India's efforts to improve in the field.

## 34. Ministry of Civil Aviation, ISB signs MoU to analyze RCS on air travel

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Indian School of Business (ISB) has signed MoU with Ministry of Civil Aviation to undertake research to analyze the effect of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on commercial air travel
- This MoU marks the extension of the socio-economic impact study of UDAN scheme conducted by ISB pro-bono basis in 2020.
- RCS was launched in 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity. It will be jointly funded by the central government and state governments.



### About UDAN Scheme.

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- To develop the regional aviation market.
- To provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel on regional routes to the common man even in small towns.
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to un-served and underserved airports of the country through the revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme is operational for a period of 10 years.
- Till date, 387 routes and 60 airports have been operationalised out of which 100 routes are awarded in the North East alone.

### UDAN 4.1

- The UDAN 4.1 focuses on connecting smaller airports, along with special helicopter and seaplane routes.
- Some new routes have been proposed under the Sagarmala Seaplane services.
- Sagarmala Seaplane Services is an ambitious project under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways with potential airline operators.

**KRISHI UDAN:-** It was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in August 2020, on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.

## 35. Bhupender Yadav initiates first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Labour and Employment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** has flagged off the first ever **All India Domestic Workers Survey**.
- It will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- **Objective:** To estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at the national and state level and find out household estimates of live-in and live-out domestic workers.
- It will also estimate the average number of domestic workers engaged by different types of households.
- The survey would cover 37 States and Union Territories, covering 1.5 lakh households in 742 districts.



### Who is a Domestic Worker?

Any person engaged by a household shall be classified as a domestic worker if the frequency of visits by the worker to the household is at least four days during the last 30 days and the goods and/or services produced by the worker are consumed by the members of the household against payment either through cash or kind.

### Status of Domestic Workers:

- According to the latest data on the e-Shram portal, around 8.8% of the registered 8.56 crore informal sector workers fall in the category of domestic workers.
- India has around 38 crore workers in the informal sector.
- At the current rate of registration in the e-shram portal, there would be 3-3.5 crore domestic workers in the country.
- Domestic workers are the third-largest category of workers after agriculture and construction.
- India is a signatory of the International Labour Organisation Convention C-189 (Domestic Workers Convention, 2011).

## 36. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Aayakar Bhawan-cum-Residential Complex

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated new Aayakar Bhawan-cum- Residential Complex '**The Chinars**' at Rajbagh in Srinagar.
- Income Tax Building had got damaged in a terrorist attack in 2005
- Establishment of new office complex and attached '**Aayakar Seva Kendra**' will go a long way in providing better service to tax payers in the spirit of Jan Bhagidari.
- Number of developmental works shall be carried out for the overall benefit of the people



## 37. Jitendra Singh launches India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Science and Technology Minister, **Jitendra Singh** has launched **India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children** under CSIR Jigyasa Programme
- It will also connect students with scientists across the country.
- **Main aim of Virtual Lab:** To provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium.
- New facility will immensely benefit students from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Government Schools.



### About CSIR:

- **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. CSIR has a pan-India presence and has a dynamic network of **38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units**.
- **Established: September 1942**
- **Located: New Delhi**
- **CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology** and it operates as an autonomous body through the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.

### Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

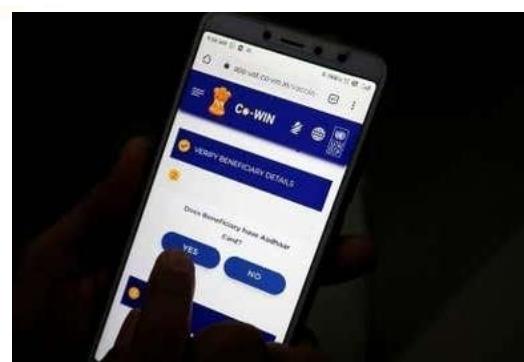
- **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology** is named after the **founder Director of the CSIR, the late Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar**.
- **It was instituted in 1957** as the most coveted and revered prize in the field of science and technology in the country.
- He was the Founder Director (and later first Director-General) of CSIR who is credited with establishing twelve national laboratories.
- He played a significant role in the building of **post-independent Science and Technology infrastructure and in the formulation of India's S & T policies**. He concurrently held a number of important positions in the Government.
- He was the **first Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
- He was conferred with **Order of British Empire (OBE)**. He was **Knighted in 1941** and elected **Fellow of the Royal Society, London in 1943**.
- He was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan in 1954** by the **President of India**.



### 38. Know Your Vaccination Status feature enabled on CoWIN

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- **CoWIN digital platform** has now been enabled with a new feature '**Know Your Vaccination Status**'
- The new feature will help to verify or retrieve a citizen's vaccination status and details as per the authorized rights of the verifying entity by **Co-WIN and Health Ministry**.
- It can be utilized by a service provider for facilitating service requested by the citizen.
- It can also be utilized by travel agencies and help making travel safe for individuals.



### 39. Foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum launched

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Home Minister **Amit Shah** will lay foundation stone for setting up of **Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum** at Luangkao village in Tamenglong district of **Manipur**
- This project has been sanctioned by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs at an estimated cost of **15 crore rupees**.
- Luangkao Village in Tamenglong District is the birthplace of renowned freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu and decided to name the Museum as Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.



## 40. Education Minister inaugurates CNT and CIKS at IIT Guwahati

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2021

- Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has inaugurated **Centre for Nanotechnology (CNT)** and **Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS)** at IIT Guwahati.
- CNT will host 25 advanced laboratories that will focus on advancements in multi-disciplinary, scientific and translational research and is equipped with a Class-100 clean room facilities
- CIKS will focus on preserving, documenting and sustaining the knowledge that is unique to India.



## 41. PM Modi laid foundation of Defence Industrial Corridor project in Jhansi

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- PM Narendra Modi has laid foundation stone of **Rs 400 crores** worth **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor project** in Jhansi.
- It was launched on the concluding three-day '**Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv**', organized by Ministry of Defence (MoD) along with Uttar Pradesh govt
- UP Defence Industrial Corridor has nodes at Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Lucknow and Kanpur.
- A plant for propulsion system for **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles** has also being set-up.



### Defence Industrial Corridor of UP:

- It is an aspirational project that intends to reduce foreign dependency of the Indian Aerospace & Defence Sector.
- It will have 6 nodes – Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Chitrakoot, Jhansi and Lucknow.
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is the nodal agency to execute this project in conjunction with various other state agencies.
- It aims to bring up the state as one of the largest & advanced Defence manufacturing hubs and put it on the world map.
- Uttar Pradesh is the fourth largest state in India and the third largest economy within the country.
- The state also ranks first in terms of number of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country and ranks 2nd in Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).
- UP has the highest number of available labour force and is one of the top five manufacturing states in India.

### Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor

- It comprises Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem and Hosur. It will create new defence production facilities and promote clusters with necessary testing and certification facilities, export facilitation centres, technology transfer facilitation, etc.
- The corridor was inaugurated in 2019.

## 42. India stands at 82 in global bribery risk rankings

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- India has slipped to **82nd position** in 2021, five places down from **77th rank** last year, in a global list that measures business **bribery risks**.
- The list by **TRACE** measures business bribery risk in **194** countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- According to this year's data, **North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela** and **Eritrea** pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while **Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden** and **New Zealand** present the lowest.



### 43. Indian Railways gets first pod hotel at Mumbai Central station

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union minister of state for Railways **RaoSaheb Danve** inaugurated first-of-its-kind **pod hotel** at the **Mumbai Central station**.
- The pod hotel has several small bed-sized capsules and provides affordable overnight accommodation.
- Charges: **Rs 999** for 12 hours and **Rs 1,999** for 24 hours.
- Facilities: WiFi, TV, a small locker, adjustable mirror, and reading lights.
- These resting facilities can be availed by **Passengers of Indian Railways** and even **common people**.



### 44. Centre approves new Rajya Sainik Board for Ladakh

- On 16<sup>th</sup> November, Centre has approved new **Rajya Sainik Board** for Ladakh, that will be an effective link between the Centre and Ladakh Administration
- It will play an advisory role on the matters of ex-servicemen, war widows, widows and non-combatants, including serving soldiers and their dependents.
- Zila sainik welfare offices of Leh and Kargil** will function under newly constituted Rajya Sainik Board
- It provide access to the welfare schemes under **Raksha Mantri Ex-servicemen Welfare Fund**.



### 45. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai among world's top 10 polluted cities



Top 10 Polluted Cities in World

	City-Country	AQI
1.	 <b>Delhi - India</b>	556
2.	 <b>Lahore - Pakistan</b>	354
3.	 <b>Sophia - Bulgaria</b>	178
4.	 <b>Kolkata - India</b>	177
5.	 <b>Jagreb - Croacia</b>	173
6.	 <b>Mumbai - India</b>	169
7.	 <b>Belgrid-Serbia</b>	165
8.	 <b>Chengadgu-China</b>	165
9.	 <b>Scopej-NorthMesponia</b>	164
10.	 <b>Cacko-Poland</b>	160

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from **IQAir**, a **Switzerland-based climate group**, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are among the top ten most polluted cities of the world.
- Delhi** top the list with AQI at 556, **Kolkata** and **Mumbai** recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at 4th and 6th position.
- The cities with the worst AQI indices also include **Lahore**, Pakistan, and **Chengdu**, China.
- IQAir** is also a technology partner of the **UNEP**.
- Recently, the Supreme Court took a serious view of the severe air pollution in Delhi-NCR and suggested that if needed, the government can declare a two-day lockdown to bring down the levels, which have been caused by stubble burning, vehicles, firecrackers, industries, dust.
- The Chief Justice noted that stubble burning by farmers is only responsible for 25 per cent of the pollution, and the remaining 75 per cent pollution was from firecracker burning, vehicular pollution, dust etc.

## 46. India's 1st National Yogasana Sports Championships organized in Bhubaneswar

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- India's first Physical **National Yogasana Championships** has been organised in Bhubaneswar, Odisha (11 to 13 Nov 2021).
- Around 560 young **Yogasana Sports athletes** from across 30 states would be taking part in the event.
- It has been organised by the **National Yogasana Sports Federation** (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state.
- The event aims to promote yoga and create a global brand around it, portraying it as a competitive sport with high standards and benchmarks.



## 47. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju launches Citizens' Tele-Law Mobile App

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- As part of Azadi Ka **Amrit Mahotsav**, Law Minister **Kiren Rijiju** launched Citizens' Tele Law Mobile App and felicitated frontline functionaries at a function in New Delhi.
- This **App would connect** the beneficiaries directly with Panel Lawyers offering legal advice and consultation.
- It is the responsibility of the government to ensure justice to the poorest of the poor through whatever services they need.



## 48. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launches e-GCA

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- Union Minister of Civil Aviation, **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** has launched **GCA (e-Governance in Directorate General of Civil Aviation)**
- This project has been aimed at automation of the processes and functions of DGCA, with **99 services covering about 70% of the DGCA work** being implemented in the initial phases, and 198 services to be covered in other phases.
- It is a single window platform and will bring in monumental change- eliminating operational inefficiencies, etc.



### International Civil Aviation Day: 7<sup>th</sup> Dec

International Civil Aviation Day is observed to raise and reinforce awareness about the role aviation plays in the social and economic development of countries or regions. The International Civil Aviation Day was observed on **December 7 in 1994** for the first time on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on **International Civil Aviation by the ICAO**.

**Theme :** The ICAO Council establishes a theme for International Civil Aviation Day every five years, coinciding with ICAO anniversaries – as **in 2014, 2019, 2024, 2029**. The Council representatives pick a theme for the full four-year intervening period.

It decided that the theme till **2023** will be: "**Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development**".

## 49. India launches E-Amrit portal for Electric Vehicles at COP26

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021

- India has launched '**E-Amrit**' portal on electric vehicles (EVs) at COP26 Summit in Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- It has been developed by **NITI Aayog** under a collaborative knowledge exchange programme with support from **UK government**.
- **E-Amrit:** It is one-stop destination to provide all information regarding electric vehicles.
- Website will provide details related to burst myths around the adoption of EVs, as well as their purchase, investment, policies, among other things.



## 50. Govt to conduct National Achievement Survey (NAS)

- Recently on 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Union Government has conducted the **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** across India, assessing about **38 lakh students from 1.23 lakh schools in 733 districts in 36 States and Union Territories**.
- The survey was last conducted in **2017** and was scheduled to take place in **2020**. However, due to the Covid situation, it was postponed until this year (2021).
- It is a nationwide survey to assess the learning outcomes and health of the education system.
- It is the **largest, nationwide, sample-based education survey conducted across India**.
- It is undertaken by the **Ministry of Education**.
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** conducted **NAS 2021**.
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** designed an assessment framework and tools for **NAS-2021**.
- It provides a system-level reflection on the effectiveness of school education.
- It collects information on relevant background variables such as school environment, teaching processes, and student home and background factors.



## Education in India

### Constitutional Provisions:

- **Part IV of Indian Constitution, Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, has a provision for state-funded as well as equitable and accessible education.
- The **42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976** moved education from the **State to the Concurrent List**.
- The **86th Amendment in 2002** made education an enforceable right under Article 21-A.

### Related Laws:

- **Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009** aims to provide primary education to all **children aged 6 to 14 years** and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
- It also mandates **25% reservation or disadvantaged sections of the society**.

## International News

### 1. Iran-Nuclear Deal:

- The Iran Nuclear Deal, formally known as **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the **P5+1** (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany).

#### What's the cause for concern?

- Recently, Iran's stockpile of **20% enriched uranium** has reached **over 210 kilograms**, the latest defiant move ahead of upcoming nuclear talks with the West.
- Under the historic **2015 nuclear deal** between Iran and the World Powers, Iran was not meant to enrich uranium above **3.67%**.
- Since Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord, which granted sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program, and reimposed harsh economic sanctions, Iran has steadily violated the terms of the deal. Although the new President Joe Biden has expressed interest in reviving the JCPOA following an announcement in May 2021.
- Its estimate of Iran's stockpile, as of November 6, was **2,489.7 kg**, many times in excess of the limit laid down in the 2015 agreement.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** said on **17<sup>th</sup> November**, that Iran has in recent months increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium significantly. This, the agency pointed out, is a violation of its commitments under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear agreement.
- Iran's representative office in Vienna said that **IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi** will visit the country next week. Grossi will arrive in Tehran and hold his first meeting with Iran's new Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, on the following day.

#### What was the objective of the JCPOA?

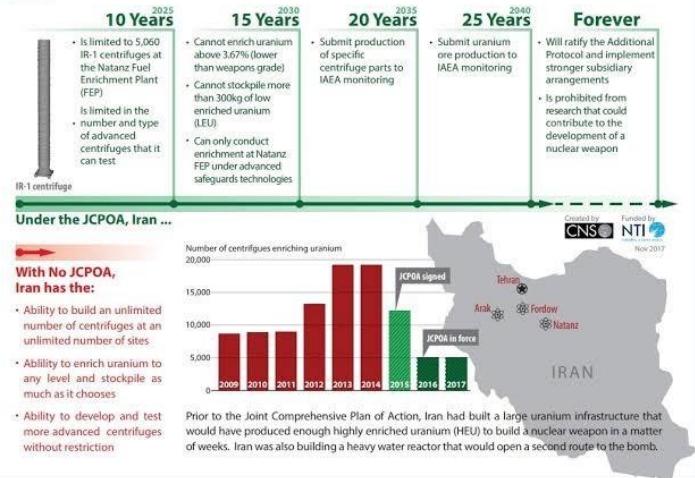
- The main objective of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was to slow down Iran's nuclear program. If Iran decided to make a nuclear weapon, it would take a year for it to be complete, giving enough time for world powers to respond.
- United States intelligence estimates that, in the absence of the JCPOA or a similar agreement, Iran could produce materials for nuclear weapons in a few months. If that came to pass then the entire Middle East would be pushed into a new crisis. Iran's open hostility against Israel is well known.

### Agreements made in the Iran Nuclear Deal

#### Agreements accepted by Iran:

- Iran agreed not to produce highly enriched uranium or plutonium, both key components of a nuclear weapon
- It agreed to ensure that its facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Arak would only be used for power generation, medical, industrial research or for any civilian work
- Iran eventually agreed to eventually implement a protocol that would allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency unrestricted access to its nuclear facilities. This access can also be applied to undeclared sites.

#### The Iran Nuclear Deal: Blocking Iran's Path to the Bomb



Prepare for CLAT As Per New Pattern  
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## Agreements accepted by the P5+1 and others

- The European Union, the UN and the United States committed lifting sanction on Iran. But some US sanctions dating back to 1979 remained in effect
- The parties involved also agreed to lift sanctions on a Weapons embargo provided the United Nations confirms through the IAEA that Iran is only engaged in civilian nuclear activities

## Iran Nuclear Deal Impact on India

- Restoration of JCPOA may ease many restrictions over the Iranian regime, which may directly or indirectly help India. This can be reflected in the following examples:
- Boost to Regional Connectivity: Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the Chabahar port, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for regional connectivity.
- This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan.

**About International Atomic Energy Agency:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The **IAEA was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957.**

The IAEA has its headquarters in **Vienna, Austria**. The IAEA has two "Regional Safeguards Offices" which are located in Toronto, Canada, and in Tokyo, Japan. The current Director General is **Rafael Grossi**, an **Argentinian diplomat** who previously served as an IAEA's chief of cabinet.

Source: IAEA.org, Indian Express



## 2. American B-1B Bomber Flies Over MIDEAST amid Iran Tensions

- On 31<sup>st</sup> October the **US Air Force** flew a **B-1B strategic bomber** over key maritime chokepoints in the Mideast with allies including Israel amid ongoing tensions with Iran as its nuclear deal with world powers remains in tatters.
- Fighter jets from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia flew alongside the bomber.



### Important Highlights:

- The B-1B Lancer bomber flew over the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the **Persian Gulf** through which 20% of all oil traded passes.
- It also flew over the **Red Sea, its narrow Bab El-Mandeb Strait and Egypt's Suez Canal**.
- The **Strait of Hormuz** has been the scene of attacks on shipping blamed on Iran in recent years, while the **Red Sea** has seen similar assaults amid an ongoing shadow war between Tehran and Israel.
- The Islamic Republic has denied being involved in the attacks, though it has promised to take revenge on Israel for a series of attacks targeting its nuclear program.
- In the time since, Iran has abandoned all the limits of the deal and drastically reduced the ability of international inspectors to keep watch over their program. While Iran insists its program is peaceful, the **U.S. intelligence agencies**, Western inspectors and others say Tehran had a structured military nuclear weapons program through the **end of 2003**.
- **President Joe Biden** has said he's willing to re-enter the nuclear deal, but talks in Vienna have stalled as a hardline protégé of **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** took over as president. Biden sending a B1-B bomber into the region allows him to send "a clear message of reassurance" to regional allies.

### Strait of Hormuz

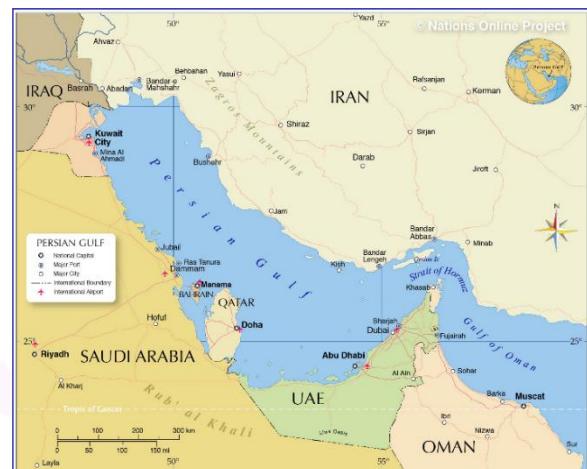
- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow channel, approximately 30 miles wide at the narrowest point, between the Omani Musandam Peninsula and Iran.
- Shaped like an inverted V, it connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. The Strait is deep and relatively free of maritime hazards.
- Its depth is greatest near the Musandam Peninsula and tapers as you move north toward the Iranian shore
- It's almost 100 miles (161 kilometers) long and 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, with the shipping lanes in each direction just two miles wide.
- Its shallow depth makes ships vulnerable to mines, and the proximity to land — Iran, in particular — leaves large tankers open to attack from shore-based missiles or interception by patrol boats and helicopters.



### Persian Gulf

- The Strait contains **eight major islands**, seven of which are controlled by Iran. Iran and the United Arab Emirates disagree as to the ownership of the strategically located Abu Musa, Greater Tumb, and Lesser Tumb islands.
- Nonetheless, Iran has maintained a military presence on these islands since the 1970s.
- Additionally, Iran's navy has good access to open sea from bases at Bandar Abbas, Bushehr, and Chahbahar.
- The de facto Iranian control of these islands certainly strengthens Iranian influence in the waters of the Strait.

Source: *Economictimes.in*



### 3. Global Conference on Green Development of Seed Industries:

- The **Global Conference on Green Development of Seed Industries** was organized by FAO on 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November, to provide a neutral forum for its members, partners, industry and opinion leaders, and other stakeholders to engage in focused dialogues on how best to make quality seeds of preferred productive, nutritious and resilient crop varieties available to farmers.
- State of Telangana got a rare recognition as it was invited to participate in a conference that would be held virtually by **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the United Nations (UN) on November 4 and 5. Representatives, Ministers, scientists and seed experts from 195 countries would participate in the conference.
- The programme, International Seed Conference, is being organised to discuss development of seed industry. Dr. Keshavulu, managing director of Seed Corporation will be addressing on 'Quality Seed Production System: A success story of India: Telangana as a seed hub' at the two-day conference being held in Rome.

**Global Conference on Green Development of Seed Industries**  
4-5 November 2021



### Objectives of the conference

- Increase awareness of the contributions of the seed industry to green innovation of plant production.
- Promote cooperation between sectors, especially for public-private partnerships.
- Foster priority setting and the targeted mobilization and pooling of scientific, technical and financial resources for strengthened seed systems.

## Key facts

- A 60% increase in food production must be attained by 2050 when the global population growth will result in over 9 billion persons inhabiting the planet
- Plants account for over 80% of the human diet and nutrition. 250,000 plant species of higher plants are described/identified of which 30,000 plant species are edible
- Of these, 30 plant species represent crops that feed the world, while only 5 cereal crops (rice, wheat, maize, millet and sorghum) provide 60% energy intake of the world population

## About FAO:

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It was founded in **October 1945**. The FAO is composed of 197 member states. It is headquartered in **Rome, Italy**, and maintains regional and field offices around the world, operating in over 130 countries.



### Director General: Qu Dongyu

**Note:** The FAO Council also approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021.

## 4. USA Joins International Solar Alliance:

- The **USA on 10th November** joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. With this, the US has become **101st country** to become part of the grouping by signing the framework of the ISA. As its name suggests, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) seeks to bring about global energy transition to solar power.
- **John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate** made the announcement on behalf of the US at COP26 climate summit.
- The fourth General Assembly of multilateral body **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was concluded with a promise to achieve USD 1 trillion global investments in solar energy by 2030.
- The framework emphasizes delivering global relevance and local benefit to all countries through collaborations, with ISA's key interventions focusing on readiness & enabling activities, risk mitigation & innovative financing instruments to facilitate the promotion and deployment of solar technologies in target markets.
- The approach and methods detailed in the framework have already delivered results, with ISA building a solar project pipeline of **nearly 5 GW installed capacity**. The approach detailed in this framework will culminate in a vision for interconnected global grids, which was formalized and jointly launched as the '**Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid**' (**GGI-OSOWOG**).



### Green Grids Initiative:

- In May 2021, India and the UK had agreed to combine the Green Grids Initiative and the One Sun One World One Grid and jointly launch GGI-OSOWOG at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November 2021.
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 2, 2021, launched the **Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) initiative** jointly with his **UK counterpart Boris Johnson** at the event '**Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment**' at COP26 Climate Summit at Glasgow 2021 by the UK Presidency of COP26 and India Presidency of International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Earlier at COP26, the United States also joined the Steering Committee of the **GGI-OSOWOG** comprising of 5 members – **USA, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, and India** — and endorsed the One Sun Declaration along with 80 countries.
- United States of America's Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm had said that "the Grid-Sun combination will save the planet. The GGI-OSOWOG is focusing on the two most important pieces of the puzzle. We at the US Department of Energy are happy to be a partner with GGI-OSOWOG."

### About ISA:

- India Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande announced launch of the ISA on November 30, 2015. The announcement was made at 21st session of **United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France**.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of 124 countries initiated by India, most of them being the sunshine countries, which lie **either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn**. The primary objective of the alliance is to work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then French President Francois Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the ISA Headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in **Gwal Pahari, Gurugram, India**. **ISA DG: Ajay Mathur**

Source: PIB, Indian Express.

## 5. Belarus-Poland Border Crisis

- The **2021 Belarus–European Union border crisis** is a migrant crisis consisting of an influx of several tens of thousands of immigrants, primarily from Iraqi Kurdistan, with smaller groups hailing from elsewhere in Asia and from parts of Africa to Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland via those countries' borders with Belarus.

### How did the Crisis Start?

- In Belarus there were months of protests following the August 2020 election that gave authoritarian **President Alexander Lukashenko** a **sixth term in office**. The opposition and the West rejected the result as a sham.
- Belarusian authorities responded to the demonstrations with a fierce crackdown that saw more than 35,000 people arrested and thousands beaten by police.
- The **EU and the US** reacted by imposing sanctions on the Belarus government. In May 2021 Belarus forcibly diverted a passenger jet and scrambled a warplane to arrest an opposition journalist in an act denounced by Western powers as "state piracy" (an act of piracy where the state is involved). After which the sanctions were further strengthened.
- The crisis began sometime around **July 7, 2021**, when **Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko** threatened to "flood" the EU with human traffickers, drug smugglers and armed migrants. The Belarus government reacted by saying he would no longer abide by an agreement to stem illegal migration, arguing that the EU sanctions deprived his government of funds needed to contain flows of migrants and it would stop trying to prevent undocumented migrants and refugees from reaching the EU.
- The Belarusian opposition has urged the EU to take even tougher measures, including a trade embargo and a ban on transit of cargo via Belarus. However, the Belarus government has threatened to cut off Russian gas supplies to Europe through pipelines over Belarus. But Russia appeared to distance itself from that threat.
- Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia** have described the crisis as hybrid warfare, calling the crisis an incident of human trafficking of migrants **waged by Belarus against the EU**. The three governments declared a **state of emergency** and announced their decisions to build border walls on their borders with Belarus, with **Poland approving an estimated €353 million in spending to build a 60 kilometres (37 mi) barrier**. The EU sent additional supporting officers and patrol cars to Lithuania, and twelve EU governments stated their support for a physical barrier along the border.



### Russia's Support:

- Belarus has received strong support from its main ally, Russia, which has helped buttress Lukashenko's government with loans and political support. Belarusian and Russian paratroopers have staged joint drills near the Polish and Lithuanian borders. It is taking place during a standoff between Belarus and the European Union (EU) over migrants camped in freezing forests at the frontier.
- Russia said the migrant flows resulted from the US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Western-backed Arab Spring uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Russia has also squarely blamed the EU for the migrant crisis, arguing that it was the EU's refusal to accept asylum-seekers that is creating the crisis.

### What is the stand of European Union?

- The EU has made a strong show of solidarity with Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. EU officials are expected to discuss another round of sanctions against Belarus.
- The EU has accused Belarus of mounting a "hybrid attack" on the bloc by flying in thousands of migrants, mainly from West Asia, and pushing them to try to cross illegally into Poland.
- Neighbours of Belarus have expressed concern that the crisis could escalate into a military confrontation.
- However, Belarus also denies encouraging the flow of migrants and said the EU is violating migrants' rights by denying them safe passage.

### Other governments stand:

**NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization condemned "the continued instrumentalisation of irregular migration artificially created by Belarus as part of hybrid actions targeted against Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia for political purposes.

**Germany:** Germany, one of the primary end destinations of many of the migrants, registered 2,000 asylum seekers who had passed through Belarus, compared to 26 during the first half of 2021. In November 2021, German chancellor Angela Merkel made a phone call to Lukashenko on this issue, but Lukashenko's spokesperson and the German authorities voiced completely different versions about its content.

**Estonia:** In July 2021, Estonia condemned the human trafficking organized by Belarusian authorities and sent its border patrols and tents to boost the protection of the Belarus–Lithuania border. On 17 November 2021, the Estonian government called almost 1,700 reserve soldiers to hold a snap defence readiness exercise; the reserve engineers will construct temporary fences in Estonia's border areas with Russia.

**Ukraine:** On 11 November 2021, Ukraine announced that they would deploy 8,500 soldiers and police officers, as well as 15 helicopters, to the border with Belarus to prevent possible attempts by stranded migrants to cross into the country in order to reach the European Union.

**United Kingdom:** In November 2021, the United Kingdom sent a contingent of troops (10 soldiers) from the Royal Engineers to support Poland's border security. This number was increased to 150 later that same month.

**Turkey:** In November 2021, Turkey restricted certain nationalities from buying tickets for flights to Belarus, potentially closing off one of the main routes that the EU says Belarus has used to fly in migrants by the thousand to engineer a humanitarian crisis on its frontier. EU officials welcomed this decision. Turkey also dismissed Polish allegations about aiding the migrant flow to its border.

## 6. Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan:

The Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan was held on 10 November 2021 in New Delhi in an expanded format. The first two editions of the Dialogue were hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2018 and 2019.

### Who were the participating countries?

- The National Security Advisers / Secretaries of the National Security Councils of the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the meeting.
- It was chaired by **National Security Adviser, Shri Ajit Doval**. Both China and Pakistan have denied participating in it and no delegation from Afghanistan was invited.



### Highlights of the Dialogue:

- The participants discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, especially the security situation and its regional and global ramifications. The sides paid special attention to the current political situation in Afghanistan and threats arising from terrorism, radicalization and drug trafficking as well as the need for humanitarian assistance.
- During the meeting, the National Security Advisers / Secretaries of the National Security Councils:
  - I. *Reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasizing the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.*
  - II. *Expressed deep concern over the suffering of the people of Afghanistan arising from the security situation in Afghanistan and condemned the terrorist attacks in Kunduz, Kandahar and Kabul.*
  - III. *Emphasised that Afghanistan's territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts.*
  - IV. *Condemned in the strongest terms all terrorist activities and reaffirmed their firm commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its financing, the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and countering radicalization, to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism.*
  - V. *Called for a collective cooperation against the menace of radicalization, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region.*

The **Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan**, issued at the **conclusion of the dialogue**, said that “Afghanistan’s territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts”. It stressed on the need to form “an open and truly inclusive government that represents the will of all the people of Afghanistan and has representation from all sections of their society, including major ethno-political forces in the country”.

**India's Engagement with Taliban: India adopted UN Security Council's (UNSC's) resolution 2593 after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan** and it aims to address the **New Delhi's key concerns regarding the country**.

### What is UNSC resolution 2593 all about?

- The resolution demands that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten/attack any country or to shelter/ train terrorists or plan/finance terrorist acts
- It was put forward by US, UK, and France and adopted after 13 council members voted in favor
- The permanent members **Russia and China abstained from voting**
- It specifically mentions individuals and entities designated by UNSC Resolution 1267, i.e., Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)

### What is the significance of the resolution?

- Strong signal from the UNSC and the international community on its expectations in respect of Afghanistan.
- It called on the Taliban to keep its commitments on preventing terror groups in Afghanistan
- Urged Taliban to assist the safe evacuations of Afghan nationals wishing to leave the country
- Addressed the concerns of anti- Indian terror outfits like LeT and JeM.

Source: Mea.gov.in

## 7. Africa's Sahel Region Crisis:

- The UN peacekeeping chief while speaking at a **UN Security Council meeting on the G5 Sahel force** warned on **12<sup>th</sup> November 2021** that the crisis in **Africa's Sahel region remains volatile**, with insecurity and instability seriously undermining prospects for development and many lives lost every day as a result of terrorist attacks.

### Highlights of the Address:

- Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations**, presented the Secretary-General's latest report on the activities of the **Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel)** and **United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)**, noting that the region remains severely unstable, with civilians paying the highest price.
- Many lives are lost daily due to terrorist attacks, millions of people are displaced, and primary health care remains inaccessible, even as the pandemic continues to rage.
- Highlighting progress in protecting civilians and preventing and mitigating human rights violations by armed and security forces while carrying out counter terrorism operations, he underscored the need for a dedicated support office funded through assessed contributions — rather than the current model which relies on unpredictable donor financing.

### About G-5 Sahel:

**G5 Sahel or G5S** is an institutional framework for coordination of regional cooperation in development policies and security matters in west Africa. **It was formed on 16 February 2014 in Nouakchott, Mauritania**, at a summit of five Sahel countries: **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger**.



- It adopted a convention of establishment on 19 December 2014 and is permanently seated in Mauritania. The coordination is organised on different levels. The military aspect is coordinated by the respective countries' Chiefs of Staff.
- The purpose of G5 Sahel is to strengthen the bond between economic development and security, and together battle the threat of jihadist organizations operating in the region (AQIM, MUJWA, Al-Mourabitoun, Boko Haram).
- G5 Sahel counterterrorism task force was formed in 2017** and was authorized by the **African Union Peace and Security Council in April 2017** and was strengthened by the adoption of **UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2359 in June 2017**. It has had the strong backing of France, which currently has some 4,000 troops deployed to the region to work with regional militaries and directly engage terrorist fighters.

### United Nations peacekeeping

- Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the Department of Peace Operations** as a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace. The **Charter of the United Nations** gives the **Security Council** the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security.
- Jean-Pierre Lacroix** is a French diplomat who currently serves as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations.
- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**: 29 May



## 8. India gets re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board

- India has been re-elected to the UNESCO board in Group IV Asian and the Pacific States** along with Japan, Vietnam, Philippines, Cook Islands and China **for a four-year term from 2021-25**.
- The election of members to the UNESCO board** had taken place on November 17, 2021, during the **41st session of the UNESCO General Conference**.



### About UNESCO Executive Board:

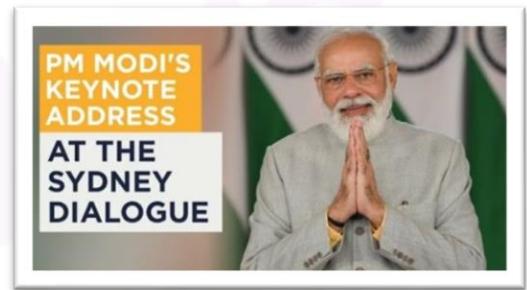
- The UNESCO Executive Board is one of the three constitutional organs of UNESCO. The other two are General Conference and the Secretariat. It consists of 58 member states each with a four-year term of office
- The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States parties.
- During the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference **Saudi Arabia's permanent representative to UNESCO, Princess Haifa Al Muqrin** was elected as **Chair of UNESCO's Executive Board Programme and External Relations (PX) Commission**.

### About UNESCO:

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the arts, the sciences, and culture. It was **founded on, 16 November 1945**.
- It has 193 member states and 11 associate members. It is **headquartered in Paris, France**.
- The UN cultural agency UNESCO on 9th November 2021, re-elected France's **Audrey Azoulay** as its director-general for a second mandate.

## 9. PM Modi Keynote Address at the Sydney Dialogue:

- The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at **The Sydney Dialogue** on theme "**India's technology evolution and revolution**" on **18<sup>th</sup> November**.
- In his keynote address at the inaugural Sydney Dialogue summit virtually, Narendra Modi acknowledged that the digital age has brought transformation in "everything we see around us," and has redefined politics, economy, and society.



### PM Modi lists out 5 important transitions taking place in India:

- World's most extensive public information infrastructure (Over 800 million use the internet, 750 million are on smartphones.)
- India is "transforming people's lives by using digital technology for governance including empowerment, connectivity, delivery of benefits and welfare."
- World's third-largest and fastest-growing start-up ecosystem'
- 'India's industry and services sectors undergoing massive digital transformation'
- On the fifth transition, Prime Minister said that there is a large effort to prepare India for the future. "We are investing in developing indigenous capability in telecom technology such as 5G and 6G; India is one of the leading nations in artificial intelligence."

PM Modi also cited the **unregulated nature of crypto market** and called for taking progressive and forward-looking steps. The international order should ensure crypto currencies do not end up in the wrong hands.

### About the Sydney Dialogue:

- The annual Sydney Dialogue is convened by the **Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)** — an independent, non-partisan think tank that produces expert and timely advice for Australian and global leaders. **ASPI was established by the Australian Government in the year 2001**.
- It is an annual summit of cyber and critical technologies to discuss the fallout of the digital domain on the law-and-order situation in the world. It was held from November 17-19, 2021.
- It brought together political, business and government leaders to debate, generate new ideas and work towards common understandings of the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging and critical technologies.



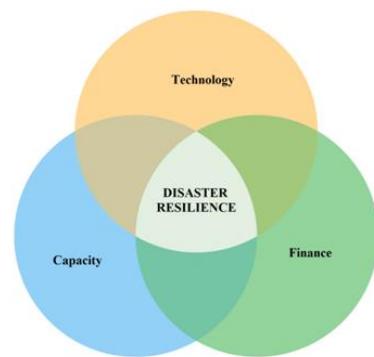
**Note:** On November 1, **India's COVAXIN** was recognised by Australia's medicines and medical devices regulator.

## 10. 5th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- The **5th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)** is being organised in New Delhi between November 24-27, 2021, at the campus of IIT Delhi.

### Key Highlights:

- Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, virtually inaugurated the “**5th World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)**” on November 24, 2021.
- The overarching theme of the congress is ‘**Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the context of COVID-19**’.
- He reiterated India’s vision for the Indian Ocean, summarized by the concept of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**.
- He also lauded the Armed Forces for being the first responders in the region for **Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**.
- The aim is to promote interaction of science, policy, and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.



### Some Recent Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations taken in IOR are:

- INS Airavat** was deployed to deliver COVID relief to friendly foreign nations in Southeast Asia which are battling the COVID19 pandemic under the aegis of '**Mission SAGAR**' initiated by the Government of India. It went to Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam with COVID 19 relief material.
- INS Offshore patrol vessel INS Savitri** went to Bangladesh with COVID relief material and medical oxygen plants.
- Several other missions were deployed for COVID-19 Relief Material and COVID-19 pandemic has not dented India's commitment for IOR.
- Operation Rahat in Yemen** in 2015 when India rescued and evacuated over 6,700 persons, including over 1,940 citizens of more than 40 other countries

### About World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)** is a unique initiative of **Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS)** to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world in the same platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management.
- The mission of WCDM is to promote interaction of science, policy and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.

### What are the five stages of Disaster Management Cycle?

- Prevention
- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

### Disaster Management in India:

- National Disaster Management Authority**, abbreviated as NDMA, is an apex Body of Government of India, with a mandate to lay down policies for disaster management. NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India on **23 December 2005**. It is headed by the **Prime Minister of India**.



- **The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is an Indian specialized force constituted "for the purpose of special response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The '**Nodal Ministry**' in the central government for management of natural disasters is the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**
- The head of the NDRF is designated as Director General.
- **Current DG: Atul Karwal**



## 11. US Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

President Joe Biden on 23<sup>rd</sup> November has ordered the release of 50 million barrels of oil from America's strategic reserve

- The Biden administration has asked some of the **world's largest oil consuming nations - including China, India, and Japan** - to consider releasing crude stockpiles in a coordinated effort **to lower global energy prices**.
- **India plans to release about 5 million barrels of crude oil** from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the U.S., Japan and other major economies to cool international oil prices. This is the first time ever that India, which stores 5.33 million tonnes or about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast, is releasing stocks for such purposes.

### What is Strategic Petroleum Reserve?

- **Strategic petroleum reserves** are huge stockpiles of crude oil to deal with any crude oil-related crisis like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war or other calamities (thus moderating prices).
- The concept of dedicated strategic reserves was first mooted in 1973 in the US, after the **OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) oil crisis**.
- According to the agreement on an International Energy Programme (I.E.P.), each International Energy Agency (IEA) country has an obligation to hold emergency oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of net oil imports.



### Origin of SPR

- The **United States** created the **SPR in 1975** after the Arab oil embargo spiked gasoline prices and damaged the U.S. economy.

### Which countries have SPR?

- **Besides the United States**, the other **29 member countries in the International Energy Agency**, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Australia, are required to hold oil in emergency reserves equivalent to 90 days of net oil imports. Japan has one of the largest reserves after China and the United States.
- Another IEA associate member, **India, the third-biggest oil importer, and consumer, also maintains a reserve**.
- Overall, OECD governments held more than 1.5 billion barrels of crude as of September.

### Strategic petroleum reserves in India:

- The construction of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities in India is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).
- The three operational crude oil storage facilities are located in **Visakhapatnam, Mangalore (Karnataka) and Padur (Karnataka)**. These facilities are operated by the State-run Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited.
- The government of India is planning to set up two more such caverns at **Chandikhol (Odisha) and Udupi (Karnataka)** as per phase II through Public-Private Partnership. This will give an additional 6.5 million tons of the oil reserves.

- After the new facilities get functional, a total of 22 days (10+12) of oil consumption will be made available. With the strategic facilities, Indian refiners also maintain crude oil storage (industrial stock) of 65 days.
- Thus, approximately a total of 87 days (22 by strategic reserves + 65 by Indian refiners) of oil consumption will be made available in India after completion of Phase II of the SPR programme.
- This will be very close to the 90 days mandate by the IEA.

#### About IEA:

- The **International Energy Agency** is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in the framework of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
- India became an associate member of the IEA in 2017 and recently, IEA has invited India to become a full-time member.

## 12. 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

- The 9th Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime was hosted on 25<sup>th</sup> November by Bhutan.



#### Key Highlights:

- The meeting was attended by **BIMSTEC Members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The meeting discussed emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats in the BIMSTEC region.
- **India is the Lead Country for BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC)**, which also oversees **six Sub-Groups** on (a) Intelligence Sharing (b) Legal and Law Enforcement (c) Counteracting Radicalization and Terrorism (d) Anti- Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (e) Human Trafficking and (f) Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.
- The **Indian delegation** highlighted threats emanating from cross-border terrorism from terrorist groups such as LeT, JeM, HM etc. and transnational organized crime such as drug trafficking, illegal weapons smuggling etc. The meeting deliberated and made recommendations on wide ranging issues to enhance cooperation and collaboration in countering terrorism and transnational crimes in the region.
- Modalities for implementation of the **BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime, and Illicit Drug Trafficking** which entered into force on **16th of March this year was also discussed**.
- India would be hosting the tenth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes (JWG-CTTC) in 2022.

#### About BIMSTEC:

- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is an international organisation of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations, housing 1.73 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of \$3.8 trillion (2021).
- The **BIMSTEC member states** – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand – are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.
- It was founded in the year 1997 and leadership is rotated in alphabetical order of country names.
- The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Source: Mea.gov.in

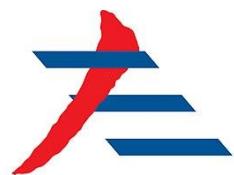
### 13. 13th ASEM Summit:

- The **13th edition of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit** has been organized from 25 to 26th November, 2021
- Hosted by: Cambodia as ASEM Chair**
- Theme: Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth**
- The Summit will bring together countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas
- 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the intergovernmental Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process** fostering dialogue and cooperation, mutual respect, and equal partnership between Asia and Europe.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** lead the **Indian delegation** at the two-day ASEM summit to be held virtually. The seventh ASEM summit held in 2008 saw the first summit-level participation from India.



#### About ASEM:

- The **Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an Asian–European political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners. It was officially established on **1 March 1996 at the 1st ASEM Summit (ASEM1) in Bangkok, Thailand**, by the then 15 Member States of the European Union (EU) and the European Commission.
- ASEM grouping have **51 member countries, European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**. Biennial Summits are held alternating between Asia and Europe, attended by the Heads of State and Government of the respective partner countries and organisations.
- The countries in the grouping represent 65% of the global GDP, 60% of the global population, 75% of global tourism and 55% of global trade.



Asia-Europe Meeting

### 14. Barbados, Formally Casting Off the Queen, Becomes a Republic

- Barbados has become the world's newest republic on 30<sup>th</sup> November.** At a ceremony this week, the country elected **its first ever president, Sandra Mason, who replaced Queen Elizabeth II as head of state**.
- Barbadian superstar Rihanna** also made an appearance, where she was given the title “the right excellent” and proclaimed a national hero — the first such designation in more than two decades.



#### About Barbados:

- Barbados is a tiny island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of the Americas, and the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands. Its capital and largest city is Bridgetown.
- Barbados was claimed by the British in 1625.** It has sometimes been called “Little England” for its loyalty to British customs. The island of Barbados was under British colonial rule for more than 400 years.
- In 1966, it became independent** but remained a Commonwealth realm with the queen as its symbolic ruler. In October 2021, Dame Sandra Mason was elected by Parliament to become the first President of Barbados. On 30 November 2021, Mason replaced Queen Elizabeth as head of state, with Barbados transitioning to a republic.
- It has joined **Guyana**, which gained independence in **1966** and became a republic in **1970**; **Trinidad and Tobago**, which became independent in **1962** and a republic in **1976**; and **Dominica**, which gained full independence as a republic in **1978**.



## About Commonwealth Realm:

- A **Commonwealth realm** is a sovereign state that has **Elizabeth II as its monarch and head of state**. Each realm functions as an independent state, equal with the other realms.
- In 1952, **Elizabeth II was the monarch and head of state of seven independent states: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon**. Since then, new realms have been created through independence of former colonies and dependencies, and some realms have become republics. Barbados is the most recent realm to become a republic.
- **As of 30 November 2021, there are 15 Commonwealth realms**: These are:

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the United Kingdom. All are members of the **Commonwealth of Nations**, an intergovernmental organisation of **54 independent member states**, 52 of whom were formerly territories held as part of the British Empire.

**Note:** The Commonwealth of Nations was originally created as the British Commonwealth of Nations through the **Balfour Declaration at the 1926 Imperial Conference** and formalized by the United Kingdom through the **Statute of Westminster in 1931**. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the **London Declaration in 1949**.



## 15. India Internet Governance Forum 2021

- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar has jointly inaugurated 3-day India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IIGF 2021).
- **Organized by:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India
- It is centered around the theme '**Empowering India through Power of Internet**'
- **Aim:** To bring stakeholders of internet governance for roadmap of digitization
- It is an initiative associated with UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF).



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## Economics & Financial News

### 1. Microsoft Beats Apple to become World's Most Valuable Company

- Microsoft surpassed Apple's market cap to become the world's most valuable public company
- Microsoft surged **2.2 percent** to a market value of **\$2.49 trillion**, surpassing Apple.
- For the first time since 2010, Microsoft passed Apple's market cap in 2018 and later in July 2020
- When market was coming to a close, Microsoft's market cap stood at \$2.49 trillion while Apple's market capitalisation stood at \$2.46 trillion.
- Microsoft CEO: **Satya Nadella**
- Apple CEO: **Tim Cook**



### 2. RBI issues revised Prompt Corrective Action framework for banks

- RBI has issued a revised **Prompt Corrective Action** framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at "appropriate time" and also act as a tool for effective market discipline.
- Capital**, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework.
- The revised **PCA framework** will be effective from January 1, 2022.
- The **PCA** is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline.
- The first **PCA** was introduced in **December 2002**.



#### Prompt Corrective Action:

- Background: PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002 as a structured early-intervention mechanism for banks that become undercapitalised due to poor asset quality, or vulnerable due to loss of profitability.
- The framework was reviewed in 2017 based on the recommendations of the working group of the Financial Stability and Development Council on Resolution Regimes for Financial Institutions in India and the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission.

#### What is Non Performing Asset:

- It is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remains overdue for a period of 90 days.
- Banks are required to classify NPAs further into Substandard, Doubtful and Loss assets.

### 3. Yahoo Inc. stops its services in China with effect from 1st November

**Yahoo Inc.** has announced to stop its service in mainland **China** with effect from **November 1, 2021** due to the increasingly challenging business and legal environment in China.

- With this Yahoo has ended its 22-year presence in Chinese market.
- This means that services like Yahoo Weather, Yahoo Finance, and other websites run by Yahoo such as **AOL.com**, **TechCrunch** and **Engadget** will not be accessible from within China.
- Earlier, **LinkedIn** also announced its operation shut-down in China.



#### 4. IBM sets up client innovation centre in Mysuru

- **IBM Corp.** launched a client innovation centre in **Mysuru** with support from the **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)**
- Aim: to attract companies to set up operations in cities beyond Bengaluru.
- This initiative aims at supporting the rapid, high-tech driven economic growth in tier-2 and -3 regions while providing comprehensive hybrid cloud and **AI technology** consulting capabilities.
- The centre specialises in **design, software engineering and analytics**.



##### About IBM:

- International Business Machines Corporation is an American multinational technology corporation headquartered in **Armonk, New York**, with operations in over 171 countries.
- **CEO: Arvind Krishna**
- **Founder: Charles Ranlett Flint**

#### 5. India's foreign exchange reserves increase \$1.9 bn to \$642 bn: RBI

- As per **RBI** data India's forex reserves have increased by USD 1.919 billion to USD 642.019 billion for the week ended October 29.
- **Foreign Currency Assets** increased by 1.363 billion to USD 578.462 billion for the reporting week.
- Value of the **gold reserves** increased by USD 572 million to USD 39.012 billion.
- **SDRs** with the **IMF** rose by USD 17 million to USD 19.304 billion.
- The forex reserves includes **gold, SDRs and foreign currency assets**.



#### 6. Brickwork Ratings projects India's GDP at 10-10.5% in FY2022

- Domestic credit rating agency **Brickwork Ratings** has projected gross domestic product (GDP) of India at **10-10.5%** in the current financial year 2021-22 (FY22).
- Earlier this was estimated at 9%.
- India's GDP grew at 20.1% in the first quarter of fiscal 2022.
- Brickwork Ratings: **SEBI registered Credit Rating Agency**.
- Headquarters of Brickwork Ratings: **Bengaluru**.



#### 7. RBI launches its First Global Hackathon named 'HARBINGER 2021'

- **RBI** has launched its first global hackathon named as '**HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation**'
- Theme of HARBINGER 2021: **Smarter Digital Payments**
- Winner of the hackathon will get **Rs. 40 lakhs** while Runner-up will get **Rs. 20 lakh**
- **Eligibility criteria:** All entities, teams or individuals (18 years and above) eligible to enter into contractual agreement; who possess Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and those who have an element of innovation.

## 8. HSBC launches India's 1st recycled PVC plastic credit card

- HSBC India has launched India's first credit card made from recycled PVC plastic.
- The cards are issued in partnership with IDEMIA and will help gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic.
- This initiative has initially been rolled out for HSBC Cashback Credit Card and will be gradually extended to all card variants.
- Made from 85% recycled plastic, the new rPVC cards will help save **3.18gm of plastic waste** per card in addition to helping lower overall carbon emission.
- HSBC Headquarter: London, United Kingdom**
- HSBC CEO: Noel Quinn**
- HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland**
- HSBC Founded on: 3 March 1865 at Hong Kong**
- HSBC Bank India CEO: Hitendra Dave**



## 9. ADB Approves \$ 1.5 Billion Loan to India for Purchasing Covid-19 Vaccines

- The ADB has approved a \$ 1.5 bn (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.
- The loan from ADB will fund at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people, it added.
- It will support India's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which aims to fully vaccinate 94.47 crore people aged 18 years and above.
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is expected to co-finance an additional \$ 500 million for the project.



### Asian Development Bank

- ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966.
- It has 68 members. India is a founding member.
- 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
- As of 31st December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
- It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa

## 10. Amazon, Asian Paints, Tata Tea top Most Purposeful Brands Ranking

According to Kantar's BrandZ India 2021 report, **Amazon, Tata Tea and Asian Paints** emerged as the most purposeful brands in India across **technology, FMCG** and in **non-FMCG** categories resp

- In technology ranking **Amazon** leads the index followed by **Zomato, YouTube, and Google** and **Swiggy** jointly in **4th place**
- While **Asian Paints** topped the **non-FMCG** rankings, **Samsung** and **Jio** ranked jointly in the 2nd position followed by **MRF**.
- The **FMCG** category rankings saw **Tata Tea** top the chart.

## 11. Exim Bank commits \$100 million loan for Covid vaccines in FY 22

- **Exim Bank** has committed loans worth \$100 mn for domestic manufacturers of **Covid-19** vaccines.
- These loans are being extended to about half a dozen drug makers in the country.
- The loans for vaccines are also being extended to other countries.
- The bank expects a credit growth of 10% this year.
- This will be driven by ‘good’ demand from EPC, textiles, pharma and petroleum sectors, among others.
- Its loan portfolio increased 4.43% year-on-year to ₹1,03,851 crore.



### About EXIM Bank:

- **EXIM** stands for **Export-Import Bank**
- **Export-Import Bank of India** is a wholly owned Govt. of India entity
- **Established in 1982**
- **HQ : New Delhi**
- **Aim : financing, facilitating and promoting foreign trade of India.**
- **Managing Director: HARSHA BANGARI**

## 12. JP Morgan named as world's most systemic bank: FSB

- **JP Morgan Chase** has bagged the top spot at the **2021 list of globally systemic banks (G-SIBs)** released by **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**.
- FSB has identified total 30 banks as globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) by FSB.
- These 30 banks are divided into four buckets in order of how systemic, international, interconnected and complex they are.
- **FSB:** It is an international body that represented the **G20 leaders' first major international institutional innovation.**



## 13. India signs agreement with ADB to improve primary health care in India

- **Govt of India** signs loan agreement worth \$300 million with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas.
- This programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states.
- The project will benefit over 256 million urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas will benefit from the project
- The programme supports **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres** and **PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana**



### About: PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme:

- Announced in the Union Budget 2021-22.
- Aims to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care health systems even in the last miles of the nation.
- Developing a modern ecosystem for research, testing and treatment in the country itself.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an outlay of about Rs. 64,180 crores.
- Duration: 6 years.

## 14. India received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021: World Bank

- India has received **\$87 billion** in remittances in 2021 as per the report titled '**Migration and Development Brief 35**' released by World Bank and KNOMAD.
- KNOMAD is supported by multi-donor trust fund established by World Bank.
- India is also the top country in receiving remittances in 2021, followed by **China, Mexico, Philippines, and Egypt**.
- As per the report, remittance flows to **low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)** are projected to reach \$589 billion in 2021.
- The United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20% of all Remittances.
- Remittances are projected to grow 3% in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion, because of a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return.

## 15. NSDL e-Governance gets RBI's in-principle nod as Account Aggregator

- NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure** got in-principle approval from **RBI** to set up an **account aggregator** business under its subsidiary, **NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator**.
- Account Aggregator** is a first-of-its-kind consent framework that empowers an individual with control over his or her data.



## 16. Akasa Air inks pact with CFM for LEAP-1B engines

- Rakesh Jhunjhunwala backed-Akasa Air announced the purchase of **CFM LEAP-1B** engines to power its recently purchased **Boeing 737 MAX** airplanes.
- Akasa had ordered **72 Boeing 737 MAX** airplanes valued at nearly \$9 billion at list price.
- The LEAP-1B engine entered into service on the Boeing 737 MAX in 2017.
- CEO, Akasa Air: **Vinay Dube**



## 17. VP Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Bengaluru Tech Summit

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated three days annual flagship **Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021**.
- Organized by:** Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka and Co-Hosted by STPI
- It will be held **from 17th to 19th November 2021**.
- Central theme of BTS 2021: **Driving the Next**.
- It is the 24th edition of BTS which is being conducted in a hybrid format and will see participation from 30 countries.



## 18. New RBI scheme to enable retail investors to invest in government securities

- Central bank of India is all set to unveil **RBI Retail Direct scheme** through which retail investors can easily access government securities market, both primary and secondary online.
- It will also allow the investors to open and maintain their gilt securities accounts online with the RBI without any extra charges. (G-sec). G-Sec is issued by RBI on behalf of GOI.
- G-secs** are the **debt instruments (bonds and treasury bills)** issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the central government.

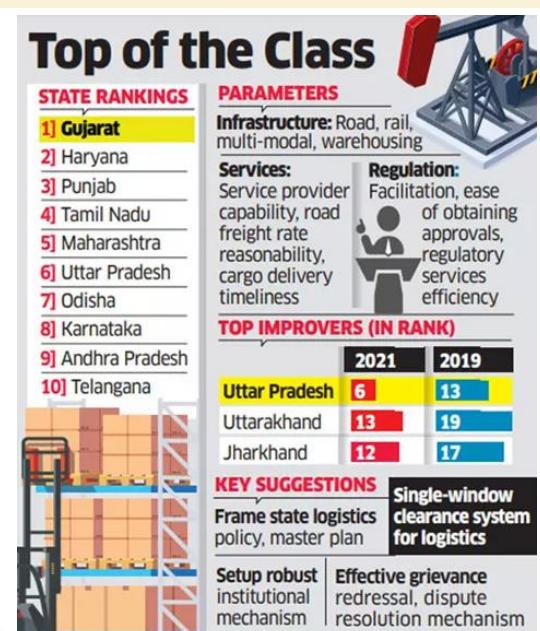


## Ranks & Reports

### 1. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index

- The LEADS survey 2021 was conducted from May-August 2021 amid the Covid pandemic.
- "The whole exercise garnered 3,771 responses from 1,405 respondents across the country," the ministry said in the report.
- The index is developed by the **commerce and industry ministry** along with **Ernst & Young**. It was released on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**.
- Gujarat** has once again topped a national index of mobility of goods and efficiency of logistics chain, closely followed by **Haryana and Punjab**.
- Assam** stood last on the chart among states while **Jammu Kashmir** was ranked first among Northeastern States and **Himalayan Union Territories**.
- Uttar Pradesh leapfrogged seven notches up to rank six in 2021 compared to 13 in 2019, the highest among all states, driven by policy initiatives and higher infra spending in logistics.
- The state has been ranked the highest in the third edition of the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)** index, which is based on indicators such as infrastructure, services, timelines, traceability, competitiveness, security, operating environment, and efficiency of regulatory processes.
- While releasing the report on Monday, commerce, and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that logistics costs can be brought down to **5% over the next five years from almost 14% now**.
- For each state/UT, ranking was formulated based on a revised methodology that has granular details such as multimodal transport, availability of mobile/internet connectivity, safety and security during transportation, consistency in delivery without damage.
- The index is loosely based on the **World Bank's biannual Logistics Performance Index (LPI)**.

Source: Economic Times



### 2. Climate Change Performance Index and Greenhouse Gas Emissions List

- The **17th edition of the Climate Change Performance Index**, compiled by **Germanwatch, the New Climate Institute, and the Climate Action Network**, was released on **9<sup>th</sup> November 2021** on the sidelines of the 26th session of the **Conference of the Parties (CoP26)** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The index monitors climate mitigation progress of 60 countries and the European Union, places three Scandinavian countries on top, while countries such as Morocco and the UK are also ranked high.



#### Key Highlights of the Report:

- The first three ranks** of the overall rankings **were kept empty** because no country had performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating. The first three ranks in the greenhouse gas emissions category, too, were kept empty.
- China is ranked 37** overall and has an overall rating of "low".
- The report showed that while **United States**, despite improving marginally since it re-entered global climate negotiation process when President Joe Biden took charge, **ranked 55th** within 65 countries considered with 'very low' rating.
- Overall, Australia, South Korea and Russia and the United States are among the lowest performing countries along with Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia.

### Who got the top ranks in the Climate Change Performance Index?

As highlighted above no country qualified to be eligible for ranks one to three and the top three spots remained vacant. The top performers in the list of 60 countries were **Denmark (rank 4)**,

**Sweden (rank 5), Norway (rank 6)** respectively.

#### India on track to achieve its climate targets

- In the overall rankings, **India is at number 10** with a **score of 69.22**. It is a high performer except in the renewable energy category, in which it is ranked “**medium**”. The report says that India is benefiting from its relatively low per-capita emissions.
- India “is already on track to meet its **2030 emissions target** (which is compatible with a well-below-2°C scenario), close to achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of a 40% share for non-fossil fuel installed power capacity by 2030, and on course for a targeted 33–35% reduction in energy intensity by the same year,” said the report.
- “India’s ambitious renewable energy policies, such as its targets of renewable electricity capacity of 450 GW and a 30% electric vehicle share by 2030, also contributed” added the expert.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

Rank	Country	Score
4.	Denmark	76.92
5.	Sweden	74.46
6.	Norway	73.62
7.	UK	73.29
8.	Morocco	71.64
9.	Chile	69.66
10.	India	69.22

#### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Rank	Country	Score
4.	UK	33.93
5.	Sweden	33.84
6.	Mexico	32.85
7.	Chile	32.69
8.	Malta	31.56
9.	Morocco	29.35
10.	India	31.42

#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions List

- An accompanying report was released which ranked 60 countries on their performance to lower greenhouse emissions. **India remained the same at 10th position** even in this list on account of efforts being made to lower its greenhouse emissions with a total **score of 31.42**.
- The top three spots remained vacant even on this list as no country did enough to lower its greenhouse gas emissions to qualify for the top three spots. The United Kingdom (rank 4), Sweden (rank 5), Mexico (32.85) grabbed the top rankings on the list.

Source: Indian Express, [downtoearth.org](http://downtoearth.org)

### 3. UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends Report:

- UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends report** revealed since December from 82.4 million, there is an increase in the internal displacement after people fled from war zones.
- Nearly more than **84 million people worldwide** have been forcefully displaced **due to the rise in violence, instability** as well as the **consequences of climate change** in several parts of the globe, the United Nations (UN) refugee agency, UNHCR stated in a newly issued data on Thursday, November 11.
- This resulted largely from internal displacement, with more people fleeing multiple active conflicts around the world, especially in Africa. The report also noted that COVID-19 border restrictions continued to limit access to asylum in many locations.

#### Key Highlights of the Report:

- Nearly **51 million** people are now internally displaced, as conflict and violence flared around the world during the first half of 2021. Much of the new internal displacement was in Africa, including in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.3 million)** and in **Ethiopia (1.2 million)**. Violence in Myanmar and Afghanistan also forced people from their homes between January-June 2021.
- The number of refugees also continued to increase during the first half of 2021, reaching nearly **21 million**. Most new refugees came from five countries: **Central African Republic (71,800)**, **South Sudan (61,700)**, **Syria (38,800)**, **Afghanistan (25,200)** and **Nigeria (20,300)**.
- The international community must redouble its efforts to make peace, and at the same time must ensure resources are available to displaced communities and their hosts
- It is the communities and countries with the fewest resources that continue to shoulder the greatest burden in protecting and caring for the forcibly displaced, and they must be better supported by the rest of the international community.

### About UNHCR:

- The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is a UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a third country.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with over 17,300 staff working in 135 countries.
- Filippo Grandi** (born March 30, 1957) is an Italian diplomat and United Nations official, current **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**.

Source: [Unhcr.org](http://Unhcr.org), [msn.com](http://msn.com)



### 4. Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle

Recently, **NITI Aayog** in a report titled '**Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle**' suggested extending Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) coverage to 'missing middle'. The report was launched in the presence of **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** and **Additional Secretary Dr. Rakesh Sarwal**.



#### Key-highlights of the Report

- Around 20 per cent of the population - 25 crore individuals are covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance.
- The remaining 30 per cent of the population is devoid of health insurance.
- The actual uncovered population is higher due to the existing coverage gaps in PM-JAY and overlap between schemes.
- The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle. It primarily recognizes the policy issue of low financial protection for health for the missing middle segment and highlights health insurance as a potential pathway in addressing that. In doing so, the report offers a starting point for broader discussions on solutions, and specific products, to improve insurance coverage for the missing middle.

#### What are the Challenges in health sector for middle class?

- Expensive treatment, Lack of access to proper healthcare and Unawareness
- Inadequate reach, Inadequate Fund
- Optimal Insurance etc.

#### About AB-PMJAY

- The programme is part of the Indian government's National Health Policy and is means-tested. It was launched in **September 2018** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. That ministry later established the **National Health Authority** as an organization to administer the program. (**Ram Sevak Sharma** is the current CEO of the NHA.)
- PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.



#### Features of PM-JAY include the following—

- Providing health coverage for 10 crores households or 50 crores Indians.
- Providing a cover of **₹5 lakh (US\$6,600) per family per year** for medical treatment in empaneled hospitals, both public and private.
- No restriction on family size, age, or gender
- All previous medical conditions are covered under the scheme; it covers 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation, including diagnostic care and expenses on medicines.
- The AB-PMJAY and State Government extension schemes provide comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% population (70 crore individuals).
- Around 20% of the population is covered through social health insurance and private voluntary health insurance. The remaining 30% of the population is devoid of health insurance; the actual uncovered population is higher due to existing coverage gaps in PMJAY and overlap between schemes

### Right to Health in India

- Articles 39, 41, 42 and 47 in the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) contain provisions regarding Health.
- Article 21 provides for the right to life and personal liberty and is a fundamental right.

Source: *Indian Express, PIB*.

## 5. Health Care Equity in Urban India

- The report on 'Health Care Equity in Urban India' was released by **Azim Premji University** in collaboration with **17 regional NGOs** across India.

### About the Report:

- It also looks at the availability, accessibility and cost of healthcare facilities, and possibilities in future-proofing services in the next decade. It explores health vulnerabilities and inequalities in cities in India.

### Key Highlights of the Report:

- It notes that a third of India's people now live in urban areas, with this segment seeing a rapid growth from about 18% (1960) to 28.53% (2001) to 34% (in 2019). Close to 30% of people living in urban areas are poor.
- Life expectancy among the poorest is lower by 9.1 years and 6.2 years among men and women, respectively, compared to the richest in urban areas.
- There is a heavy financial burden on the poor, and less investment in healthcare by urban local bodies.
- The report, besides finding disproportionate disease burden on the poor, also pointed to chaotic urban health governance, where the multiplicity of healthcare providers both within and outside the government without coordination challenges urban health governance.

### What are the Causes of Urban Poverty?

- Lack of Investment, Lack of Infrastructure in Villages
- Uncontrolled Migration, Housing and Economic Vulnerability

### Key Recommendations of the Report

- Strengthening community participation and governance
- Building a comprehensive and dynamic database on the health and nutrition status, including comorbidities of the diverse, vulnerable populations.

Source: *The Hindu*

## 6. NITI Aayog's Urban Development Index:

NITI Aayog has released the first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) index on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021. As many as 56 urban local bodies have been ranked on 77 SDG indicators related to ending poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality among others.

### Key Highlights of the Report:



- The index has been prepared by **NITI Aayog-GIZ and BMZ**, under the umbrella of **Indo-German Development Cooperation**.
- The SDG Urban Index and Dashboard rank **56 urban areas** based on **77 SDG indicators across 46 targets** of the SDG framework. The data on these indicators have been sourced from official data sources such as NFHS, NCRB, U-DISE, data portals of various ministries, and other government data sources.

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**Category of Urban Areas:** The urban areas are classified based on the overall score obtained which is as follows

1. **Aspirant:** The urban areas with an overall score ranging from 0–49 has been placed in the category of Aspirant.
2. **Performer:** The urban areas with an overall score ranging from 50 – 64, have been placed in the category of the performer. 25 cities were ranked in this category.
3. **Front-Runner:** The urban areas with an overall score ranging from 65–99, have been placed in the category of Front-Runner. 31 cities were ranked in this category.
4. **Achiever:** The urban areas with an overall score of 100, have been placed in the category of Achiever. No City scored a perfect score.

- **Shimla, Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kochi** have topped the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals Urban India Index.

- **Dhanbad, Meerut, Itanagar, Guwahati and Patna** are the worst performs in the first SDG Urban Index launched.
- The index and dashboard will further strengthen SDG localization and institute robust SDG monitoring at the city level.
- It highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems. Tools such as this index and dashboard will contribute to the creation of an ecosystem in which all stakeholders will be equipped to adopt and implement data-driven decision making.
- This transformative change is quite essential, given the increasing prominence of our cities and urban areas in charting the future of development in India.



#### About NITI Aayog:

- **The NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)** is a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim to achieve sustainable development goals with cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. **NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission of India.**
- NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on **January 1, 2015**.
- **Amitabh Kant** is the second and current chief executive officer of NITI Aayog.



**NITI Aayog**

**Source:** The Mint, New Indian Express:

#### 7. National Family Health Survey-5

- The National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) report released on November 24. It is conducted under the aegis of the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has played a crucial role in providing the Government of India and the stakeholders with reliable inputs to monitor the program.
- The NFHS-S, with a reference period 2019-2021 would provide vital information on reproductive and child health, fertility and family planning, health insurance, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, and many other related issues. The fourth round of NFHS was conducted five years ago in 2015-16.
- As in the earlier rounds, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai**, as the nodal agency to conduct NFHS-5.
- **Dr. Harsh Vardhan the then Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare**, released the Factsheets for 22 States/UTs of the first Phase of the 2019-20 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) on **Universal Health Coverage Day on 12th December 2020**.
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the current Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** released the Factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition, and others for second Phase of the 2019-20 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) for **14 States/UT's**. These are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry. The remaining states and UTs were surveyed in the first phase.

## Key Findings of the Report:

- India now has **1,020 women for every 1000 men** and no longer faces the threat of a population explosion. According to NFHS-3, conducted in 2005-06, the ratio was equal, 1000: 1000; it went down to 991:1000 in 2015-16 in NFHS-4. This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favor of women.
- The all-India figures show close to 80% women now have a bank account that they use — from 53 per cent in 2015-16 to 78.6 per cent in 2019-21.
- The all-India figure for phone use among women has gone up from 45.9% in 2015-16 to 54% in 2019-21.
- The data show that among the 14 states, barring five states/UTs — MP, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Delhi NCT and Puducherry — land/house ownership among women went up.
- The findings, along with data on women owning a house or land, and those owning mobile phones, offer significant insights into economic and social status of women, and their role in decision-making, in Indian households.
- Children who are anaemic between 6-59 months of age has increased from 58.6 percent to 67.1%.

Indicators	NFHS-5 (2019-21)		NFHS-4 (2015-16)	
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Population and Household Profile				
1. Female population age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)	82.5	66.8	71.8	68.8
2. Population below age 15 years (%)	23.1	28.1	26.5	28.6
3. Sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males)	985	1,037	1,020	991
4. Sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years (females per 1,000 males)	924	931	929	919
5. Children under age 5 years whose birth was registered with the civil authority (%)	93.3	87.5	89.1	79.7
6. Deaths in the last 3 years registered with the civil authority (%)	83.2	65.8	70.8	na
7. Population living in households with electricity (%)	99.1	95.7	96.8	88.0
8. Population living in households with an improved drinking-water source <sup>1</sup> (%)	98.7	94.6	95.9	94.4
9. Population living in households that use an improved sanitation facility <sup>2</sup> (%)	81.5	64.9	70.2	48.5
10. Households using clean fuel for cooking <sup>3</sup> (%)	89.7	43.2	58.6	43.8
11. Households using iodized salt (%)	96.9	93.0	94.3	93.1
12. Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance/financing scheme (%)	38.1	42.4	41.0	28.7
13. Children age 5 years who attended pre-primary school during the school year 2019-20 (%)	18.1	12.0	13.6	na

## 8. Global Nutrition Report:

As per Global Nutrition Report 2021 (GNR, 2021) released on 23<sup>rd</sup> November by World Health Organisation, India has made no progress on anaemia and childhood wasting.

### Key-findings of the Report:

- Globally, 149.2 million children under 5 years of age are stunted, 45.4 million are wasted and 38.9 million are overweight. Over 40% of all men and women (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese. The world is off track to meet five out of six global maternal, infant and young children nutrition (MIYCN) targets, on stunting, wasting, low birth weight, anaemia and childhood obesity.
- The world is also off track for meeting all diet-related non-communicable disease (NCD) targets, on salt intake, raised blood pressure, adult obesity and diabetes.
- An additional 155 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty globally due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- No country in the world is ‘on course’ to achieve the target for obesity.

### Global Nutrition Report India data

- 53% of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic, while in 2016, 52.6 per cent of Indian women were anaemic. This signifies that there has been a rise in anaemic Indian women since 2016.
- In Asia, around 9% of the children are affected, in India and more than 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are affected.
- The report says that India is ‘off-course’ in meeting 7 of the 13 global nutrition targets. These include sodium intake, raised blood pressure (both men and women), obesity (both men and women) and diabetes (both men and women).
- Around 6.2 percent of adult women and 3.5 percent of adult men are living with obesity in India.
- According to the report, India is among 53 countries ‘on course’ to meet the target for stunting. But over 34 per cent of children under 5 years of age are still affected, it added.
- Some 58 percent of infants in the age group 0-5 months are exclusively breastfed in India.

**Note: In 2012, the World Health Assembly (the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation) identified six nutrition targets to be met by 2025. These are:**

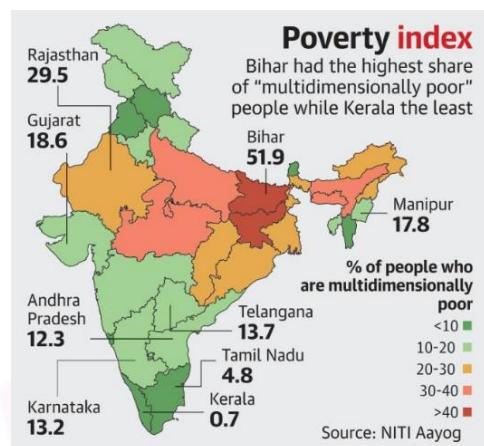
- Reduce stunting by 40% in children under 5.
- Reduce the prevalence of anaemia by 50% among women in the age group of 19-49 years.
- Ensure 30% reduction in low-birth weight.
- Ensure no increase in childhood overweight.
- Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months up to at least 50%
- Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5%.

## 9. National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- NITI Aayog has released the **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, the National Multidimensional Poverty Index on 26<sup>th</sup> November.
- The report is based on the **National Family Health Survey-4 which was completed in 2015-16 and 2011 census data.**

### About National Multidimensional Poverty Index:

- MPI attempts to measure poverty in many of its dimensions and actually provides current poverty statistics on the basis of per capita consumption expenditure.
- A globally accepted and robust methodology developed by the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** is used to measure the **National MPI**.
- It has **three equally weighted dimensions – Health, Education and Standard of Living**.
- These **three dimensions** are represented by **12 indicators**, such as nutrition, school enrolment, school education, drinking water, sanitation, housing, bank accounts etc.
- The report precedes the full rollout of flagship schemes on housing, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, and other major efforts towards improving school attendance, nutrition, mother and child health, etc.



### Key Highlights of the Index:

- **Bihar** state has the highest population-to-poverty ratio, followed by **Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh** with multidimensional poverty levels. **51.91% of the population in Bihar is poor.**
- The state of **Kerala** recorded the lowest poverty level in its population, followed by Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa, and Sikkim. **Kerala registered lowest population poverty levels (0.71%).**
- **The Union Territory of Puducherry recorded the lowest poverty level** in its population. Union Territories (UTs) of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli (27.36 per cent)**, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh (12.58), Daman & Diu (6.82 per cent) and Chandigarh (5.97 per cent), have emerged as the poorest UTs in India.
- Bihar has the highest number of malnourished people, followed by Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

### FIRST SUCH INDEX BY NITI AAYOG

TOP 5*	BOTTOM 5*
Kerala 0.71%	Bihar 51.91%
Goa 3.76%	Jharkhand 42.16%
Sikkim 3.82%	UP 37.79%
Tamil Nadu 4.89%	MP 36.65%
Punjab 5.59%	Meghalaya 32.67%

\* Share of multidimensionally poor in states

### What is the Significance of the Index?

- The development of the Index is an important contribution towards instituting a public policy tool which monitors multidimensional poverty, informs evidence-based and focused interventions, thereby ensuring that no one is left behind.
- This presents an overall picture of poverty in the country, while also enabling closer and more in-depth analyses of areas of interest such as regions – state or districts, and specific sectors and complements the existing monetary poverty statistics.
- SDG-1 aims to end poverty in all its forms, everywhere. It is a contribution towards measuring progress towards target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at reducing “at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.

Source: *The Hindu*

## State News

**1. Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar** on 1<sup>st</sup> November inaugurated the first virtual Internet Exchange of NIXI in the state of Uttarakhand, hosted at Dehradun.

- It will help in enhancing and improving the quality of Internet and Broadband services in Uttarakhand.
- Next Internet Exchange in Uttarakhand will be at Nainital District

### National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):

- The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a non-profit Company incorporated under **Section 25** of the **India Companies Act, 1956** (now **section 8 under Companies Act 2013**) with an objective of facilitating improved internet services in the country **since 2003** for spreading the internet technology to the citizens of India.
- Its Primary purpose is to facilitate exchange of domestic Internet traffic between the peering ISP, Content players and any other organizations with their own AS number.
- Since December 2012, NIXI also manages the National Internet Registry of the country delegation Internet Protocol addresses (**IPv4 and IPv6**) and Autonomous System numbers to its Affiliates.



Note: India has the second highest number of internet users in the world.

## 2. Power Minister inaugurates Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project in J&K

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, **Union Power Minister R K Singh** virtually inaugurated the diversion of **Marusudar River** of **Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project** in **Kishtwar, J&K**.
- **Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW)** is being constructed by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPL)** and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation.
- **Marusudar River** is a major tributary of the **Chenab River**.
- Diversion of the River will pave the way for acceleration in construction activities of the Project. Pakal Dul H E Project will contribute significantly in fulfilling the target of **450 GW Renewable energy by 2030**.



### List of Major River Projects in India

Multi-purpose Project	Location	Rivers
<b>Almatti Dam</b>	Karnataka	Krishna
<b>Baspa Hydro-Electric Project</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Baspa
<b>Beas Project</b>	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	Beas and Sutlej
<b>Bhadra Reservoir Project</b>	Karnataka	Bhadra
<b>Bakra-Nangal</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Sutlej
<b>Chambal Valley Project</b>	Rajasthan	Chambal
<b>Dul-Hasti Hydro-Electric Project</b>	Jammu and Kashmir	Chenab
<b>Hirakud Project</b>	Odisha	Mahanadi
<b>Idukki Hydro-Electric Project</b>	Kerala	Periyar
<b>Jayakwadi Dam</b>	Maharashtra	Godavari

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<b>Koel Karo Project</b>	Bihar	Koel
<b>Kol Project</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Satluj
<b>Kosi Project</b>	Bihar	Kosi
<b>Nagarjunasagar Project</b>	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna
<b>Nathpa-Jhakri Hydro-Electric Project (India's largest hydro-electric project)</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Satluj
<b>Parvati Valley Project (first interstate hydel power project of India)</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Parvati
<b>Periyar Valley Scheme</b>	Kerala	Periyar
<b>Ramganga River Project</b>	Uttarakhand	Ramganga
<b>Rihand Project</b>	Uttar Pradesh	Rihand
<b>Salal Project</b>	Jammu and Kashmir	Chenab
<b>Sanjay Vidyut (Hydel) Project (Asia's first fully underground Hydel Project)</b>	Himachal Pradesh	Bhaba Khud
<b>Sardar Sarovar Project</b>	Gujarat	Narmada
<b>Srisailam Project</b>	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna
<b>Tehri Dam Project (World's fifth and Asia's largest hydroelectric project)</b>	Uttarakhand	Bhagirathi
<b>Tungabhadra Project</b>	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka	Tungabhadra

### 3. Haryana Govt notifies State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020

- Haryana govt has notified **State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020** to provide **75% reservation** to the local youth in employment in the private sector.
- It will come into force from **January 15, 2022** and was passed on **March 2, 2021**.

#### Key Points:

- The Act will be applicable to employers of private sector companies, societies, trusts, limited liability partnership firms, partnership firms and any person who employs 10 or more persons on salary, wages or other remuneration for the purpose of manufacturing, carrying on business or rendering any service in Haryana.
- It will be mandatory for all these employers to register all their employees drawing gross monthly salary or wages not more than Rs 30,000 on the designated portal available on the official website of Labour Department, Haryana.
- Violation of any provision of this Act will be a punishable offence.
- The state, however, issued another notification whereby the upper limit of gross monthly salary or wages under the said Act has been reduced **from Rs 50,000 to Rs 30,000**.



हरियाणा सरकार

**Government of Haryana**

**Note:** Recently **Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched the '**Uttam Beej portal**' which will benefit the farmers of Haryana by providing quality seeds with transparency.

The portal will provide transparency in the seed production programme arranged by both the Government and private seed producing agencies and ensure the quality of certified seeds. This seed portal has been linked with **Meri Fasal Mera Byora Portal** and **Family Identity Card ID**.

#### 4. Meghalaya Cabinet approves creation of Eastern West Khasi Hills district:

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, the **Meghalaya Cabinet** has approved a proposal to upgrade the **Mairang civil sub-division** to a full-fledged district. It will be called **Eastern West Khasi Hills district**. The Indian state of Meghalaya is now divided into **12 districts**. Creation of the new district will ensure that administration will remain closer to the people besides implementation of various schemes will also be more effective.

##### About Meghalaya:

Meghalaya meaning "abode of clouds" is a state in northeastern India. Meghalaya was formed by carving out two districts from the state of Assam: **The United Khasi Hills** and **Jaintia Hills**, and **the Garo Hills** on **21 January 1972**. Meghalaya was previously part of Assam, but on 21 January 1972, the districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya.

- **Capital:** Shillong, **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma, **Governor:** Satya Pal Malik
- The North-Eastern Council Secretariat is situated in Shillong.
- **English** is the **official language** of Meghalaya.

##### About Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills:

- Meghalaya tribes can mainly be classified into three groups - **Garos, Khasis and Pnars or Jaintias**. Garos are believed to be the descendants of **Tibeto-Burmar race** who came down all the way from Tibet to the northeastern states while the Khasis and Pnars or Jaintias are the descendants of **Proto Austroloid Monkhmer race**.
- While Garos can be in the Garo hills of Meghalaya, the Khasis are scattered all across the state and are known by different names. Mainly the pure Khasis can be sited at the Khasi hills, the Pnars or Jaintias can be located on Jaintia hills.
- **Mawsynram** is a town in the **East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya** state in Northeastern India, 60.9 kilometres from Shillong, the state capital. Mawsynram receives **the highest rainfall in India**. It is reportedly the **wettest place on Earth**, with an average annual rainfall of 11,872 millimetres.



**Note:** National Museum, New Delhi celebrated **rich heritage of North-East India**, under Ministry of DoNER & NEC's initiative titled as '**Destination North-East India**' as part of the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

It was a 7-day online programme that included Cultural performances (Folk Dance and Music) of North-East India (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim) both in online as well as offline format.

#### 5. State-Festivals in News:

**I) Wangala festival:** Meghalaya state observed the **44th edition of 'Wangala'**, the **festival of 100 Drums Festival** on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It is a post-harvest festival of the **Garos tribe** which is being held every year to honour '**Saljong**', the **Sun God of Garos**, which also marks the end of the harvest season.

**It is celebrated since 1976** and is the most important festival of the Garo tribe and attracts a lot of tourists. During the Wangala, tribals offer sacrifices to please their deity Saljong, the Sun God.



**II) Boita Bandana Festival:** On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021, **Karthika Purnima**, which is also known as **Boita Bandana** was celebrated at various water bodies of **Odisha**. The festival is the maritime tradition that is celebrated as a testament to the maritime trade history of Kalinga, tradesmen and mariners known as **sadhabas travelled on boitas** (boats) to trade with distant island nations that share borders with the Bay of Bengal like **Indonesia, Java, Sumatra and Bali**.



**III) Cherry Blossom Festival:** The three-day Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2021 was inaugurated by **Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Conrad K Sangma, and Ambassador of Japan to India, Satoshi Suzuki.** It was celebrated from **November 25 to 27.**

The festival was held in two venues, **Ward's Lake and Polo Grounds in Meghalaya.** The annual festival coincides with the actual blooming of the cherry blossom flowers. It is also known as the **Prunus Cerasoides**, these flowers underline the Himalayas and cover the east and west Khasi hills.



## 6. New Development Projects in Uttar Pradesh:

**I) Purvanchal Expressway:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16<sup>th</sup> November, inaugurated the **341 km-long Purvanchal Expressway** that connects **Lucknow to Ghazipur** in Uttar Pradesh. PM Modi reached Karwal Kheri, the venue of inauguration, in **C-130 J Super Hercules aircraft** of the Indian Air Force. The PM also witnessed an airshow on the 3.2 km long airstrip constructed on the expressway in Sultanpur district.

### About the Purvanchal Expressway

- The infrastructure project is one of the biggest completed by the Uttar Pradesh government and costed an estimated **Rs 22,496 crore** and has been billed as the “carrier of development” to the underdeveloped Purvanchal region.
- The expressway starts from **Chandsarai village** in the **district of Lucknow** located on the Lucknow-Sultanpur Road and ends at **Haidaria village on National Highway 31 in Ghazipur district.** It is currently a **six-lane wide highway** and can be expanded to eight-lane in the future.
- The **341-kilometer-long expressway** will reduce the travel time between Lucknow to Buxar in Bihar from seven hours to nearly four hours. Once it is opened to the public, the travel time from Lucknow to Ghazipur will be reduced from 6 hours to 3.5 hours.
- It establishes a direct link between the NCR and eastern Uttar Pradesh till almost the Bihar border.



**Note:** The Yamuna Expressway connects Noida to Agra while the Lucknow-Agra Expressway goes up to the state capital. The Purvanchal Expressway will end about 18 km from the UP-Bihar border.

- The Purvanchal Expressway is going to give a boost to the economic development of eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh, especially the districts of Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.
- The government has developed land banks along the expressway and the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority has been authorised to develop industrial hubs along the highway. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that the Purvanchal Expressway will be the backbone of the economy of the state’s eastern region.

### II) Solar Power Park and Atal Ekta Park:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19<sup>th</sup> November inaugurated or laid the foundations of multiple development projects worth over **Rs 3,425 crore** to expedite growth of the economically backward **Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.**
- At an event in **Jhansi** in the poll-bound state, he laid the foundation of a **600-megawatt Ultra Mega Solar Power Park.** The Park is being constructed at a cost of over Rs 3,013 crore and will help provide cheaper electricity and grid stability.
- The prime minister also inaugurated **Atal Ekta Park in Jhansi.** It is named after former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee;** the park has been built at a cost of over Rs 12 crore and is spread over an area of about 40,000 square meters. The Park will house a library as well as a statue of Vajpayee. The statue has been built by renowned sculptor **Ram Sutar**, the man behind the **Statue of Unity.**

### III) Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor

PM Narendra Modi on 19<sup>th</sup> November also laid the foundation of a **Rs 400-crore project at the Jhansi node of Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.**

#### About Defence Industrial Corridor:

- The Ministry of Defence has taken several steps to promote 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in defence in the last two years. The Centre has decided to set up **two Defence Industrial Corridors in the country-- one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh.** The Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor has nodes at **Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Lucknow and Kanpur.**
- For the Jhansi node of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor, the state government has made nearly 1,034 hectares of land made available.
- **Bharat Dynamics Ltd, a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU),** is setting up a plant for the propulsion system for **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles** in the Jhansi node. It will be spread over 183 acres of land in Jhansi. The facility will involve an investment of Rs 400 crores. The project is expected to provide direct employment to 150 people and indirect employment to nearly 500 people.
- **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** is formally dedicating a number of schemes to the nation in a celebration titled '**Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv**' being organised from **November 17-19, 2021 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.** These events are part of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsav**' celebrations.
- Besides, the Prime Minister dedicated and launched several new initiatives of MoD to the nation in a grand ceremony organized in the precincts of Jhansi Fort on the Birth Anniversary of Rani Laxmi Bai. **100 Sainik Schools will be set up throughout the country.** These Sainik Schools will be set up in partnership with private educational institutions, NGOs, and State Governments. At least one Sainik Schools is proposed in each State/UT.

### IV) Uttar Pradesh's first Anti-Air Pollution Tower:

- **Uttar Pradesh's first air pollution control tower** was opened in **Noida on 18<sup>th</sup> November.** The tower has come up with joint efforts of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Noida Authority.
- It was inaugurated by Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey in the presence of minister Krishna Pal, Gautam Buddh Nagar MP Mahesh Sharma, Noida MLA Pankaj Singh and Noida Authority CEO Ritu Maheshwari.



#### How will UP's first anti-air pollution tower work?

- The Air Pollution Control Tower in Noida will operate by pulling the polluted air through its base. It will capture the particulate matter in the filters that are installed in the tower. The clean air will be then released from the top of the tower.
- The 20-meter-high anti-pollution tower with a dimension of nine meters will be able to filter the air in a one-square kilometer around it.
- Built on a green belt area of 400 square meters along the DND Flyway, the anti-smog tower will work at a filtration rate (the capacity of the tower to clean air per cubic metre) of 80,000 cubic meters per hour.
- The captured particulate matter in the anti-air pollution tower in Noida will get collected in the hopper at the bottom of it which will further provide periodic removal for disposal.
- The Pollution Control Research Institute of BHEL, Haridwar will carry out the performance study of the Anti-Air Pollution Control Tower for 1 year and on the basis of the success of this project, a grid of such APCTs can be installed in the NCR to improve the ambient air quality of the city.

## V) Noida International Airport:

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (November 25) laid the foundation stone of **Noida International Airport at Jewar**, in **Uttar Pradesh**. Speaking on the **foundation stone laying ceremony**, PM Modi said, the new India of the 21st century today is building one of the best modern infrastructures.
- Noida International Airport is said to be the **largest in Asia** and the **fourth largest in the world**. After completion of the project, Uttar Pradesh will become the **first state in India to have five international airports**. This will be the second international airport in the National Capital Region.
- It is expected that the flight services in the next three years, that is by 2024. Approximately 1.2 crore passengers will be able to fly from here every year.
- The development of the first phase of Noida International Airport is being done at a cost of more than Rs 10,050 crore, although the construction of this airport is likely to cost **Rs 34-35,000 crore**.
- It is spread over an area of more than 1,300 hectares and is being constructed by **Zurich Airport International AG**.
- It is expected that more than one lakh people will get jobs and employment opportunities. Along with this, due to the development of this area, 5 lakh people are also likely to get self-employment opportunities.

## 7. 'Pakke Declaration' on Climate Change:

- For the first time outside of the state capital, the cabinet meeting was held at **Pakke Tiger Reserve in Pakke Kessang district**, led by **Pema Khandu on 14<sup>th</sup> November**.
- The government of Arunachal Pradesh has approved the '**Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 Declaration on Climate Change Resilient and Responsive Arunachal Pradesh**', which aims to promote "climate-resilient development" in the state. The announcement is the first of its kind by any state government in the country.
- The 'Pakke Declaration' focuses on a multi-sectoral approach to low-emission and climate-resilient development based on five broad themes, or Panch Dharas resting on **75 strategies**.
- **Panch Dharas:** Environment, forest, and climate change; health and well-being of all; sustainable and adaptive living; livelihoods and opportunities; and evidence generation and collaborative action.
- The action plan will be implemented with sector-specific resource allocation within respective budgetary envelopes for coordinated and methodical engagements to immediately address and mitigate climate change's impact.



**Note:** Recently **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** has approved declaration of **Kaiser-i-Hind butterfly** as the **State butterfly of Arunachal**.

- Scientific name of Kaiser-i-Hind butterfly is **Teinopalpus imperialis**. It literally means Emperor of India.
- This species of butterfly has a **90-120 mm wingspan**.
- They are found in 6 Indian States along the Eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain: Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim, and Manipur.



## 8. NORO Virus Outbreak in Kerala:

Norovirus has reportedly infected 57 people including 54 students and three workers in a hostel of St. Mary's College, Thrissur, Kerala.

### About Norovirus:

- It is a group of viruses that leads to gastrointestinal illness. It causes inflammation of the lining of the stomach intestines, in addition to severe vomiting and Diarrhoea.
- Norovirus is resistant to many disinfectants and can heat up to 60°C. Therefore, merely steaming food or chlorinating water does not kill the virus. The virus can also survive many common hand sanitizers.



### How is it Transmitted?

- A person can be infected with different varieties of norovirus several times in their lives but developing immunity to one type doesn't provide protection against other varieties. The virus can be transferred from an infected to a healthy individual through contaminated surfaces or food.
- The virus can affect people across all age groups but is known to cause serious symptoms in children, the elderly and people with comorbidities.

### What are the Symptoms?

Diarrhoea, Vomiting, Stomachache, Gastrointestinal problems etc., are the symptoms. There are 685 million cases annually, of which 200 million are detected among children younger than five years. Nearly 50,000 children die every year due to Diarrhoea caused by the virus.

**Treatment:** While there is no specific treatment available to cure the virus, generic medications for Diarrhoea and vomiting can help cure the disease.

## 9. Odisha government launches road safety initiative 'Rakshak'

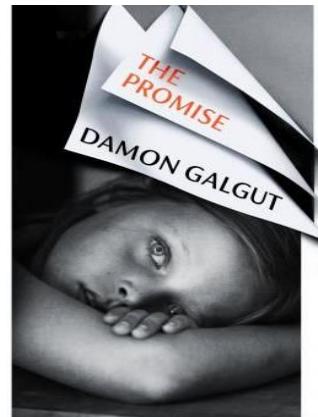
- Odisha govt has launched a first of its kind road safety initiative named as '**Rakshak**', to train first responders of road accidents.
- According to sources, while about 1.5 lakh people lose their lives in road accidents across the country every year, Odisha annually loses more than 5,000 precious lives in accidents.
- Under Rakshak, 300 master trainers will **train 30,000 local people**, staying or working at the eateries and different business establishments located near accident-prone spots.
- These 30,000 volunteers will be trained as First Responders to road accidents.
- They will be equipped to administer first aid and pre-hospital trauma care.



## Honours & Awards

### 1. The Booker Prize 2021:

- The **2021 Booker Prize for Fiction** was announced on **3 November 2021**, during a ceremony at the BBC Radio Theatre. The longlist was announced on 27 July 2021. The shortlist was announced on 14 September 2021.
- The Prize was awarded to **Damon Galgut** for his novel, **The Promise**, receiving £50,000. He is the third South African to win the prize, after J. M. Coetzee and Nadine Gordimer.
- Damon Galgut is a South African playwright and novelist, who wrote his first novel aged 17. He's been shortlisted three times for the Booker Prize and won in 2021 for his ninth book, **The Promise**.



#### About The Booker Prize:

- The Booker Prize, formerly known as the **Booker Prize for Fiction (1969–2001)** and **the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019)**, is a literary prize awarded each year for the best novel **written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland**. It was first awarded in the year **1969**.
- When the prize was first created, only novels written by Commonwealth, Irish, and South African (and later Zimbabwean) citizens were eligible to receive the prize; in 2014 it was widened to any English-language novel — a change that proved controversial.
- A seven-person panel constituted by authors, librarians, literary agents, publishers, and booksellers is appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation.
- A sister prize, the **International Booker Prize**, is awarded for a book translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The introduction of the International Prize to complement the Man Booker Prize was announced in **June 2004**.

**At Night All Blood Is Black:** Written by **David Diop** and Translated by **Anna Moschovakis** won the **International Booker Prize 2021**.

List of Indians Who Won the Booker Prize

Year	Work/Book	Author
1971	In a Free State	V.S. Naipaul
1981	Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie
1997	The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy
2006	The Inheritance of Loss	Kiran Desai
2008	The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga

### 2. PADMA Awards 2020-21:

The government of India had announced **119 Padma Awards**. The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. **President Ram Nath Kovind presented Padma Awards** for the year 2020-21 at **Rashtrapati Bhavan on 8<sup>th</sup> November**. In 2020, the ceremony to honor the Padma awardees could not be held and was delayed in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Note:** Among the Padma awardees, 29 of the awardees are **women** and 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, **16 Posthumous awardees** and **1 transgender awardee**.

The list comprises of:

- 7 Padma Vibhushan,**
- 10 Padma Bhushan and**
- 102 Padma Shri Awards.**



### Bharat Ratna is the Highest Civilian Award in the country.

- **Padma Awards were first instituted in 1954** by the Government of India but later there were two brief intervals in which Padma Awards were not allocated one was from 1977 to 1980 second was from 1993 to 1997. Initially, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri were classed as Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg which was renamed, Presidential Notification Issued on January 8, 1955.

### Who is Eligible for the Padma Award?

- All persons with no distinction of race, occupation, position, sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servers including those of PSU's (except doctors and scientists) are not eligible for these awards. Award seeks to recognise work of distinction and is given distinguished and exceptional achievements in fields of **Art, Social work, Public affairs (including law, public life, policies etc.), Science & Engineering, Trade & Industry, Medicine, Literature & Education, Civil services, Sports and others.**

### Who decides the Padma Awardees?

- All nominations received for Padma Award are placed in front of Padma Award Committee, which is constituted by Prime Ministers every year. The committee is headed by the **Cabinet Secretary and includes Home Secretary** and four-six eminent persons as members. Recommendations of the committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and President of India.

#### Padma Vibhushan 2021

1. <u>Shri Shinzo Abe</u>	1. <u>Public Affairs</u>
2. <u>Shri S P Balasubramaniam (Posthumous)</u>	2. <u>Art</u>
3. <u>Dr. Belle Monappa Hegde</u>	3. <u>Medicine</u>
4. <u>Shri Narinder Singh Kapany (Posthumous)</u>	4. <u>Science and Engineering</u>
5. <u>Maulana Wahiduddin Khan</u>	5. <u>Others- Spiritualism</u>
6. <u>Shri B. B. Lal</u>	6. <u>Others- Archaeology</u>
7. <u>Shri Sudarshan Sahoo</u>	7. <u>Art</u>

#### Padma Bhushan 2021

1. <u>Ms. Krishnan Nair Shantakumari Chithra</u>	1. <u>Art</u>
2. <u>Shri Tarun Gogoi (Posthumous)</u>	2. <u>Public Affairs</u>
3. <u>Shri Chandrashekhar Kambara</u>	3. <u>Literature and Education</u>
4. <u>Ms. Sumitra Mahajan</u>	4. <u>Public Affairs</u>
5. <u>Shri Nripendra Misra</u>	5. <u>Civil Service</u>
6. <u>Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (Posthumous)</u>	6. <u>Public Affairs</u>
7. <u>Shri Keshubhai Patel (Posthumous)</u>	7. <u>Public Affairs</u>
8. <u>Shri Kalbe Sadiq (Posthumous)</u>	8. <u>Others-Spiritualism</u>
9. <u>Shri Rajnikant Devidas Shroff</u>	9. <u>Trade and Industry</u>
10. <u>Shri Tarlochan Singh</u>	10. <u>Public Affairs</u>

### Key Highlights of Padma Awards 2020-21 and Inspiring Awardess who impacted Lives:

- Star badminton player PV Sindhu and Women's Hockey team Captain Rani Rampal were conferred **Padma Shri Award**.
- Former Head Scientist at ICMR Dr. Raman Gangakhedkar and Air Marshal Dr. Padma Bandopadhyay were conferred **Padma Shri** in the field of medicine.
- Karnataka's transgender dancer Manjamma Jogathi received the **Padma Shri** Award for her contribution to folk dance.
- Environmentalist Tulsi Gowda, orange seller Harekala Hajabba, agriculturist Rahibai Soma Popere and artist Dalavayi Chalapathi Rao were seen in viral images walking barefoot and receiving India's 4<sup>th</sup> highest civilian award **Padma Shri** from President Ram Nath Kovind. She is also known as **Encyclopedia of Forest**.
- Harekala Hajabba, a fruit seller from Mangalore, Karnataka, bestowed with the **Padma Shri** for his exemplary social work in education.
- Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was conferred **Padma Vibhushan posthumously**.

### 3. Gallantry Awards 2020-21:

- President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, recently presented Gallantry Awards 2021 & Distinguished Service Decorations at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Defence Investiture Ceremony.
- President Ram Nath Kovind recently awarded **Kirti Chakra Award, Vir Chakra Award, Shaurya Chakra Award, Maha Vir Chakra Award** as well as **Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal** and **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** during the four Defence Investiture Ceremonies at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

### Key Highlights Gallantry Awards 2021:

- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, conferred gallantry awards during Defence Investiture Ceremonies conducted in **4 Phases on 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November**.

**In 1<sup>st</sup> Phase:** Two Kirti Chakras; one Vir Chakra and 10 Shaurya Chakras were given

**In 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase:** 13 Shaurya Chakras were given

**In 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase:** One Maha Vir Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, five Vir Chakras and six Shaurya Chakras were given

**In 4<sup>th</sup> Phase:** Five Kirti Chakra, five Vir Chakras and nine Shaurya Chakras were given

- President also conferred several **Param Vishisht Seva Medals, Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and Ati Vishisht Seva Medals** for distinguished service of an exceptional order.
- **Abhinandan Varthaman**, an Indian Air Force Ace Pilot Group Captain was awarded with **the Vir Chakra**.
- Galwan Valley Hero, Col. **Santosh Babu** was awarded **posthumously with Mahavir Chakra**.

### Gallantry Awards:

Military Awards or Gallantry Awards are those awards which are presented for exceptional bravery, valor, and distinguished service. They are awarded during times of peace as well as war.

### The Military Awards are generally of two types:

1. **Gallantry Awards**
  2. **Distinguished Service Medals**
- Post-independence, first three gallantry awards namely the **Param Vir Chakra, the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra** were instituted by the Government of India on **26th January 1950** which were deemed to have effect from the **15th August, 1947**.
  - Thereafter, other three gallantry awards i.e., the **Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III** were instituted by the Government of India on **4th January 1952**, which were deemed to have effect from the **15th August, 1947**. These awards were renamed as the **Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra** respectively in January, 1967.

**Gallantry Awards:**

War Time	Description	Medal
<b>Param Vir Chakra (PVC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's Highest Wartime Military Decoration.</li> <li>Equivalent to Victoria Cross given in the UK and Medal of Honor given in the USA.</li> <li>Est. on 26 Jan 1950.</li> </ul>	
<b>Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's second highest wartime Military Decoration.</li> <li>It awarded for acts of valor in the presence of the enemy.</li> <li>Est. on 26 Jan 1950.</li> </ul>	
<b>Vir Chakra (VrC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's wartime acts of bravery on the battlefield.</li> <li>It replaced the British Military Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross.</li> <li>Est. on 26 Jan 1950.</li> </ul>	

Peace Time	Description	Medal
<b>Ashok Chakra (AC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's Highest Peacetime Military Decoration.</li> <li>Equivalent to George Cross given in the UK.</li> <li>Est. on 4 Jan 1952.</li> </ul>	
<b>Kirti Chakra (KC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's second Highest Peacetime Military Decoration.</li> <li>It is awarded to civilian as well as military personnel for valor away from the battlefield.</li> <li>Est. on 4 Jan 1952.</li> </ul>	
<b>Shaurya Chakra (SC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India's wartime acts of bravery away from the battlefield.</li> <li>It can be awarded to civilians as well as military personnel.</li> <li>Est. on 4 Jan 1952.</li> </ul>	

**Note: These awards have the following order of precedence:**

- 1) Param Vir Chakra
- 2) Ashoka Chakra
- 3) Maha Vir Chakra
- 4) Kirti Chakra
- 5) Vir Chakra
- 6) Shaurya Chakra

#### 4. 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI and BRICS Film Festival:

The 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was concluded at **Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Auditorium in Goa on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November**. For the first time, the **BRICS film festival** was hosted alongside IFFI, OTT platforms participated, and 75 creative young minds of cinema were felicitated at IFFI.

##### About IFFI:

- The **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** was founded in the year **1952** and is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia. The festival aims at providing a common platform for the cinemas of the world to project the excellence of the film art; contributing to the understanding and appreciation of film cultures of different nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos.
- The festival is conducted jointly by the **Directorate of Film Festivals (under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)** and the state **Government of Goa**.
- **The first Edition in 1952 was held in Mumbai and Since 2004**, starting from the 35th edition, the International Film Festival of India, became globally competitive, and **moved to its permanent venue Goa**, and is being held during the months of November and December of each year.
- IFFI commenced on November 20 in Goa and conclude today on November 28. This year under IFFI's initiative '**75 Young Creative Minds of India**' 75 young film enthusiasts were handpicked from across the country to attend IFFI as special guests to connect with celebrated filmmakers and industry experts and attend Masterclasses at the Festival.



##### List of award winners at 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI:

- **Most friendly State for film shooting:** Uttar Pradesh
- **Golden Peacock Award for Best Film:** Japanese film Ring Wandering (Masakazu Kanyeko)
- **Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male):** Jitendra Bhikulal Joshi (Godavari)
- **Best actor (female):** Angela Molina (Paraguay) for Charlotte
- **Best director:** Vaclav Kadrnka (Czech Republic) for 'Saving One Who Was Dead'
- **The Special Jury award:** Renata Carvalho (Brazil)
- **Indian Film Personality of the Year Award:** Prasoon Joshi & Hema Malini
- **Jury Special Mention for Debut Feature Film:** The Wealth of the World
- **Best Debut Feature Film of a Director:** Director Mari Alessandrini's Zahori
- **ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award:** Lingui: The Sacred Bonds
- **The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** was conferred upon two living legends of modern cinema — Hollywood director Martin Scorsese and Hungarian auteur Istvan Szabo — at the inaugural event of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

##### BRICS Film Festival:

- **Films from five BRICS nations**, i.e., Brazil, Russia, South Africa, China and India were also showcased through the BRICS Film Festival alongside IFFI.
- BRICS Film Festival was first organised by India in New Delhi from 2-6 **September 2016**, wherein twenty films (4 each from BRICS countries) were screened.

##### List of Awards at BRICS Film Festival:

- **Best Actor (Male):** Dhanush (Asuran)
- **Best Actor (Female):** Lara Boldorini (On Wheels)
- The Best Film Award was shared by two films - South African film Barakat and the Russian film The Sun Above Me Never Sets.



##### About BRICS:

- BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs.
- **It was founded in the year 2006 and first summit took place in the year 2009**. Originally the first four were grouped as "**BRIC**" (or "the **BRICs**") before the induction of **South Africa in 2010**.
- **India hosted the most recent 13th BRICS summit on 9 September 2021 virtually**.

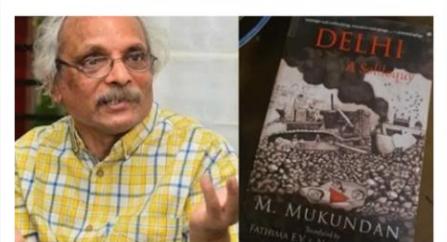
## 5. Basavashree Award 2021:

- Kannada actor **Puneeth Rajkumar** will be **posthumously conferred the Basavashree award 2021** by the **Bruhanmutt**.
- The award honours people for services to society in their respective fields by following the principles of Lord Basaveshwar.
- It is presented by **Chitradurga Bruhanmutt since 1997**. The award includes a Rs 5 lakh cash and a memento.
- PT Usha (2009), Malala Yousufzai (2014), P Sainath (2016), Dr Kasturirangan (2020)** are some to win the award in recent times.



## 6. 2021 JCB Prize for literature:

- Novel titled as '**Delhi: A Soliloquy**' written by Malayalam writer **M Mukundan has won 2021 JCB Prize for literature**
- This book was originally written in Malayalam and has been translated into English by Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar
- JCB Prize for Literature** was established in 2018.
- It is the most expensive Indian award for writing.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh for author and Rs 10 lakh for translator.



## 7. Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 by Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council:

- Badminton legend of India, **Prakash Padukone** has been selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 by **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council**.
- He was honored with **Badminton Association of India's (BAI) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018**.
- He is the first-ever Indian to win medal at World Championships in 1983 Copenhagen tournament.
- Apart from him, Devender Singh has been nominated for the Meritorious Service Award.



### About Badminton World Federation:

- The Badminton World Federation is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee. **It was founded in 1934** as the **International Badminton Federation** with nine member nations.
- In 1981 the IBF merged with the World Badminton Federation, and on 24 September 2006, at the Extraordinary General Meeting in Madrid, the name of the organization was changed to Badminton World Federation.



**President:** Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen, **Headquarters:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## 8. Pochampally makes it to list of best tourism villages in the world:

- A village in **Telangana called Pochampally** has been listed as one of the world's best tourism villages by the **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**.
- The village is situated 50 km away from Hyderabad and is called the '**Silk City of India**' as the village is famously known for weaving the 'Pochampally Ikat' Sarees comprising various geometric shapes in many colours.



### About UNWTO and its Best Tourism Village Program:

- The **World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** is the United Nations specialized agency entrusted with the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism. It was founded in the year 1975.
- Its headquarters are in **Madrid, Spain**. UNWTO is the leading international organization for the promotion of tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability.

The UNWTO Best Tourism Villages Initiative was launched during the occasion of the opening of first UNWTO's Regional Office in the Middle East (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), underscores the role of tourism in rural development. The initiative includes three pillars:

1. The 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Label
  2. The 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Upgrade Programme
  3. The 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Network
- UNWTO's 'Best Tourism Villages program will enhance the rural development in villages worldwide by facilitating tourism and other activities that promote local welfare.
  - The Ministry of Tourism had sent in three entries from India, which were **Pochampally (Telangana)**, **Kongthong (Meghalaya)** and **Ladhpura Khas (Madhya Pradesh)**. Pochampally has been listed as one of the world's best tourism villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
  - The prestigious award will be given on the occasion of **24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly** that will start on 30<sup>th</sup> November and run till 3<sup>rd</sup> December in **Madrid, Spain**.
  - Also, the **43rd Affiliate Members Plenary Session** will take place in the framework of the **24th UNWTO General Assembly in Madrid**, a decisive event in the journey to restart tourism.



## 9. Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021:

- PRATHAM, a pioneering civil society organisation dedicated to improving the quality of education for underprivileged children in India and across the world, has been awarded the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021**.
- It has been awarded for its pioneering work over more than a quarter century in seeking to ensure that every child has access to quality education, for its innovative use of digital technology to deliver education for its programs to provide skills to young adults, for its regular evaluation of the quality of education, and for its timely response in enabling children to learn during the COVID-19 related school closures.
- The jury for the award was headed by former Chief Justice of India TS Thakur.



### About PRATHAM:

- PRATHAM was established in 1995 to provide education to children in the slums of Mumbai, Pratham has grown both in scope and geographical coverage.
- Founders: Dr Madhav Chavan and Farida Lambay
- PRATHAM's Current CEO Dr. Rukmini Banerji was awarded the **2021 Yidan Prize for Education Development** - the world's highest education accolade - for her work in improving learning outcomes.

### About Indira Gandhi Peace Prize:

- The **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development** was instituted in the memory of the former prime minister by a trust in her name in 1986. It consists of a monetary award of ₹ 25 lakh along with a citation.
- The award is given to individuals or organisations who work towards ensuring international peace and development, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to further the scope of freedom and better humanity, and creating new international economic order.

## 10. Andhra Pradesh bags Best Marine State Award:

- The award ceremony was organised by the **ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying**, in **Bhubaneswar** on the occasion of WFD.
- Department of Fisheries** has awarded **best performing States for 2021-22** on 'World Fisheries Day' on **21<sup>st</sup> November** to recognize their accomplishments in the field and their contribution into the growth of the sector.
- State of Andhra Pradesh** has been conferred with the **Best Marine State Award for 2021-22**.
- Other Awards:
  - Best Inland states:** Telangana
  - Best Hilly and NE marine states:** Tripura
  - Best Marine District:** Balasore in Odisha
  - Best Inland District:** Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.
  - Best Hilly and NE District:** Bongaigaon in Assam.



### World Fisheries Day:

- World Fisheries Day (WFD)** is observed on the **21st of November** every year. WFD is celebrated to demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world.
- It was started in the year **1997** when "World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers" met at New Delhi leading to formation of "World Fisheries Forum" with representatives from 18 countries and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.

### India's Fish Production:

- In 2019-20, with an overall production of 142 lakh tons, **India produced 8% of the global share**.
- During the same time period, India's fisheries exports stood at Rs 46,662 crore, constituting about 18% of India's agricultural exports.
- India aims to achieve a target of producing **22 million metric tonnes of fish by 2024-25**.

## 11. India International Trade Fair, 2021:

- The **India International Trade Fair**, ever since its inception in **1980**, has evolved as a major event for the business community.
- It is a premier event organized by the **India Trade Promotion Organization**, the nodal trade promotion agency of the Government of India. **The event is held between 14–27 November every year at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.**
- Union Minister, Piyush Goyal inaugurated the **40th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021** at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.
- Theme:** Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- Partner State:** Bihar; **Focus States:** UP, Jharkhand
- Overseas participation:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE, Tunisia, Turkey.
  - Gold was bagged by the "**Bihar Pavilion**" for its outstanding implementation of the **theme 'Aatamnirbhar Bharat'**.
  - This was its 6th gold in the last seven years. Its showcase was its rich history of art and culture through handicrafts, handlooms, and indigenous products.
  - The **SARAS Aajeevika Mela** was also held at the Trade Fair, organised by the Union **Ministry of Rural Development and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**.
  - The '**HUNAR HAAT**', organized by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** received the prestigious **India International Trade Fair, 2021 Silver Medal** for strengthening commitment to "**Vocal for Local**".
  - Over 550 artisans and craftsmen from more than 30 States and Union Territories participated and set up more than 300 stalls in the 33rd HUNAR HAAT. The next HUNAR HAAT will be organised at Surat and JLN Stadium, New Delhi.
  - **Minister of Minority Affairs:** Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi



## Appointments

### 1. Rahul Dravid appointed head coach of Indian men's cricket team

- Former captain and right-handed batsman Rahul Dravid has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team by the BCCI.
- He has been appointed for a period of two years till 2023.
- He begins his tenure as full-time coach from the T20I series against New Zealand started November 17, 2021 in Jaipur. Prior to this, he was working as the head of National Cricket Academy. Now VVS Laxman became the head of NCA.



### 2. C.S. Venkatakrishnan appointed as CEO of Barclays



- C.S. Venkatakrishnan** has been appointed as the **CEO of Barclays** with immediate effect.
- C.S. Venkatakrishnan** was head of global markets, co-president of **Barclays Bank PLC**, and a member of the Group Executive Committee of Barclays, based in **New York**.
- Prior to his appointment as head of global markets and co-president of BBPLC, Venkat served as chief risk officer at **Barclays**.

### 3. Zubeen Garg appointed as brand ambassador of Bandhan Bank in Assam

- Indian singer, actor, composer, **Zubeen Garg** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador for Bandhan Bank** in Assam.
- This is the 1st time ever that Bandhan Bank has on-boarded a brand ambassador
- As a part of this collaboration, Zubeen has launched brand-new music video titled '**Axom Amar Mone Praane**', which highlights diverse elements of Assamese culture and heritage.
- The song and video have been produced in collaboration with Bandhan Bank
- Bandhan Bank headquarters: **Kolkata**, CEO: **Chandra Shekhar Ghosh**

### 4. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar to be the next Chief of Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral **R Hari Kumar** has been appointed as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from 30th November 2021
- He is presently the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command**
- He succeeded Admiral **Karambir Singh**, who will retire from the service on 30th November, 2021.
- He was commissioned on 1st Jan, 1983 into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy. He served as **Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet**.

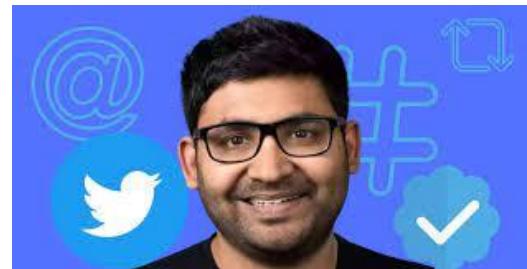


### 5. Harshwanti Bisht appointed as President of Indian Mountaineering Foundation

- Noted mountaineer **Harshwanti Bisht (62 years)** has been elected as the first woman **President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)**.
- She won 60 out of a total of 107 votes to get elected to the post IMF's President
- She scaled **Nanda Devi peak in 1981** for which she was honored with the Arjuna award.
- Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)**: It is an apex national body to organize and support, mountaineering and rock-climbing expeditions at high altitudes in Himalayas. It was founded in 1958.

## 6. Parag Agrawal takes over as CEO of Twitter

- Indian tech wizard **Parag Agrawal** takes over as the **CEO of social media platform Twitter**, after the departure of its co-founder CEO.
- He succeeded Twitter's co-founder **Jack Dorsey**, who will continue to serve on the board of Twitter until his term expires in 2022 to help with the transition, before moving on.
- Parag Agrawal is an IIT alumnus and joined Twitter in 2011 and became the CTO in 2017.
- Headquarters of Twitter: **San Francisco, U.S.**



## 7. Senior bureaucrat Vivek Johri appointed as Chairman of CBIC

- Senior bureaucrat **Vivek Johri** has been appointed as the **chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** with effect from 30th November 2021
- He is a **1985-batch IRS (Customs and Indirect Taxes) officer** and is currently working as the member in CBIC
- He succeeded **M Ajit Kumar**, who will complete his tenure on 30th November 2021
- **CBIC** is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India

### Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC):

- The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) was renamed as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in 2018 after the roll out of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of customs, central excise duties, Central Goods & Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST).

### Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

- It provides inputs for policy and planning of direct taxes in India and is also responsible for the administration of direct tax laws through the Income Tax Department.
- Direct Taxes include income tax, corporation tax etc.
- **Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman:** Shri J.B. Mohapatra

**Note:-** CBDT and CBIC have been created under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963. Both Boards are part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

## 8. Petr Fiala appointed as new Prime Minister of Czech Republic

- **Petr Fiala** has been sworn in as the **Prime Minister of the Czech Republic** by President Milos Zeman with effect from 28th November 2021.
- He is the **chairman of the Civic Democrat party and head of the SPOLU (Together) alliance.**
- He succeeded Andrej Babis.
- Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe and is bordered by Austria to the south, Germany to the west, Poland to the northeast, and Slovakia to the east.
- Capital: **Prague**, Currency: **Czech koruna**.

## 9. CBI special director Praveen Sinha elected to Interpol committee

- CBI special Director **Praveen Sinha** was elected as a delegate for Asia on the executive committee of the **Interpol**, capping an “intense” and “well-coordinated” campaign across the world by India.
- The elections for various positions for the top panel were held at the ongoing **89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul**.
- It has 13 members, including the president and three vice presidents, apart from nine delegates.
- The committee is headed by **UAE**.

### About INTERPOL:

- The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is an intergovernmental organization that helps coordinate the police force of 194 member countries.
- Each of the member countries hosts an INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB). This connects their national law enforcement with other countries and with the General Secretariat.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is designated as the National Central Bureau of India.
- The General Secretariat provides a range of expertise and services to the member countries.
- It is headquartered in Lyon, France
- Interpol President: Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi

### About the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. **CBI Director General: Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**

## 10. Geoff Allardice appointed as permanent CEO of International Cricket Council

- **Geoff Allardice** has been appointed as the permanent **CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- Prior to this, he was serving as the **interim CEO of ICC** since last eight months
- He is a former Australian first-class cricketer.
- He succeeded Manu Sawhney who officially resigned from his position in July 2021.
- ICC is the world governing body of cricket with headquarters at Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## 11. Sourav Ganguly appointed as the chairman of ICC's Cricket Committee

- **Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as the Chairman of the **ICC men's Cricket Committee**, the global cricket governing body.
- He will replace **Anil Kumble**, who stepped down after serving a maximum of a three-year term.
- Sourav Ganguly was appointed as the president **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** in October 2019.
- Johnny Grave, **CEO of Cricket West Indies** has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, **UAE** (2005–present)



## 12. VVS Laxman named as new head of National Cricket Academy (NCA)

- Former Indian international cricketer **VVS Laxman (47 years)** has been named as the next **head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)** by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- He will assume the office as NCA's head on 4th December 2021.
- He will replace **Rahul Dravid**, who has been appointed as Team India's national men's head coach.
- **NCA:**
  - It was the brainchild of cricket administrator and former BCCI President Raj Singh Dungarpur
  - HQs: **Bengaluru**
  - Established: **2000**



### 13. PC Mody appointed as new Secretary General of Rajya Sabha

- **Pramod Chandra Mody** (1982 batch IRS Officer) has been appointed as the **new Secretary General of Rajya Sabha**.
- He was formerly working as the **chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- He replaced **P.P.K. Ramacharyulu**, who was appointed to the post on 1st September, 2021 and has now been appointed as an adviser to the Rajya Sabha chairman.
- Chairman of RS (Vice President of India): **M Venkaiah Naidu**.
- Leader of the Rajya House: **Piyush Goyal**.

### 14. Ram Nath Kovind confers honorary rank on Prabhu Ram Sharma



- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has conferred honorary rank of '**General of the Indian Army**' on Nepal's Army Chief Gen Prabhu Ram Sharma.
- Prabhu Ram Sharma is on a four-day visit to India to explore ways to expand bilateral defence cooperation.
- Earlier, Nepal had conferred honorary rank of '**General of Nepal Army**' to Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane in November 2020.
- PM of Nepal: **Sher Bahadur Deuba**

### 15. Prof. Bimal Patel elected to International Law Commission for 5-yr term

- Professor **Bimal Patel** (51-year) has been elected to the **International Law Commission** for a **five-year term**, in a hard-fought election at the United Nations.
- He will serve a **five-year term** starting January 1, 2023.
- Prof. Patel has served in various roles such as the Director at the **Gujarat National Law University** and member of the **21st Law Commission** of India.
- Prof. Patel garnered **163 votes** in the UN General Assembly out of 192 members present and voting.



#### Law Commission in India:

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955 for a three-year term. Since then, twenty one more Commissions have been established.
- The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was chaired by Lord Macaulay.
- It works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

#### Important Recommendations by Law Commission of India:

- Law Commission in its 262nd Report recommended abolition of the death penalty for all crimes except terrorism-related offences and waging war against the state.
- Its report on electoral reforms (1999) had suggested simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly elections to improve governance and stability.
- The 267th report of the Law Commission had drafted a new law — The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2017 — inserting new Sections to fortify democracy against hate speeches.
- The Law Commission had also recommended the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country.

## 16. Myntra appoints Nandita Sinha as CEO

- Fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform Myntra has named **Nandita Sinha** as its Chief Executive Officer.
- Ms. Sinha succeeds Amar Nagaram.
- Before joining Flipkart, she was the co-founder at MyBabyCart.com, an e-commerce site.
- Myntra is a major Indian fashion e-commerce company headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.



## 17. Nykaa CEO Falguni Nayar becomes India's richest self-made woman

- CEO and founder of Nykaa, **Falguni Nayar** has become the **richest self-made woman in India**.
- She established **Nykaa in 2012**.
- She holds 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion.
- This comes after the IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures which is Nykaa's parent entity. This is also the first woman-led unicorn to list on the stock exchange.
- The issue size of IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures (Nykaa) was Rs 5,351.92 crore with face-value of Rs 1 per share.



## 18. Ashwini Kumar Choubey chairs Conference of PCCF / Head of Forest Force

- Union Minister, **Ashwini Kumar Choubey** has chaired **conference of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) / Head of Forest Force (HoFF)**.
- Conference has been organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to discuss various forestry and wildlife issues for coming up with solutions and innovative ideas to meet both local and global challenges.
- Second part of this conference was held on **15th November 2021**.

## 19. Rohit Sharma to captain India's T-20 International team for upcoming series

- India's vice-captain, **Rohit Sharma** has been officially announced as **Team India's T20 International captain**.
- He replaced **Virat Kohli**.
- **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced the decision, while also naming India's 16-man squad for the upcoming home series against New Zealand.
- Sharma's first assignment will be the upcoming series against New Zealand where the Black Caps will play three T20 internationals against the Men in Blue.

## Sports News

### 1. National Sports Awards 2021:

The National Sports Awards is the collective name given to the **six sports awards of Republic of India**. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2021 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The awardees received their awards from the **President of India** at a specially organized function at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on **13th November 2021**(Saturday). National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.



**1. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (Formerly the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award)** - It is the highest sporting honour of India. It was instituted in 1991–92. The recipient(s) is/are honoured for their outstanding performance in the field of sports over a **period of four years** at the international level.

**List of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021 Winners:** This year, **12 sportspersons have been selected for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021.**

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
3.	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
4.	Sreejesh P.R	Hockey
5.	Avani Lekhara	Para Shooting
6.	Mithali Raj	Cricket
7.	Pramod Bhagat	Para Badminton
8.	Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
9.	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
10.	Sumit Antil	Para Athletics
11.	Sunil Chhetri	Football
12.	Manpreet Singh	Hockey

**2. DRONACHARYA AWARD:** - It was instituted in 1985 to honour eminent Coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

**List of DRONACHARYA AWARD Winners 2021:** Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games was given to **5 Coaches in both the lifetime and regular categories.**



**3. MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY:** It was instituted in 1956-57 to honour the top overall performing university in the Inter-University Tournaments.

**MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD (MAKA) TROPHY Winner 2021:** Panjab University - Chandigarh

**4. ARJUNA AWARD:** - It was instituted in **1961**. To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the international level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

**Arjuna Awards** for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021 was presented to **35 sportspersons**.



**5. DHYAN CHAND AWARD:** It was instituted in 2002. It is an award for lifetime achievements in sports.

**List of Dhyan Chand Award Winners 2021:** **Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement** in Sports and Games will be given to **five sportspersons** including wrestler Sajjan Singh and Boxer K.C. Lekha.



S.No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Lekha K.C.	Boxing
2.	AbhijeetKunte	Chess
3.	Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey
4.	Vikas Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Sajjan Singh	Wrestling

**6. RASHTRIYA KHEL PROTSAHAN PURUSKAR:** It was instituted from 2009 to recognize the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar, 2021
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	ManavRachna Educational Institution
2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Indian Oil Corporation Limited



## 2. AIBA World Boxing Championships:

The **AIBA World Boxing Championships**, and the **AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships**, are biennial amateur boxing competitions organised by the International Boxing Association (AIBA), which is the sport governing body.

- The 2021 AIBA World Boxing Championships was held in **Belgrade, Serbia** from October 24th to November 6th at Stark arena.
- The championships was first held in **1974 Havana, Cuba** as a men's only event and the first women's championships was held over 25 years later in **2001**.
- The **gold winners** at the showpiece will walk away with a prize money of **USD 100,000**. The **silver medallists** are to be given **USD 50,000**, and both **bronze medallists will be awarded USD 25,000 each**. The total prize purse stands at a whopping **USD 2.6 million**
- As of November 2021, men are grouped into **13 weight classes** and women are grouped into **12 weight classes**.

**MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDALLISTS !**

VIJENDER SINGH	BRONZE (MILAN,2009)
VIKAS KRISHAN	BRONZE (BAKU, 2011)
SHIVA THAPA	BRONZE (DOHA 2015)
GAURAV BIDHURI	BRONZE (HAMBURG, 2017)
AMIT PANGHAL	SILVER (YEKATERINBURG, 2019)
MANISH KAUSHIK	BRONZE (YEKATERINBURG, 2019)
AKASH KUMAR	BRONZE (BELGRADE, 2021)


#PUNCHMEINHAIDUM





- **Indian boxer Akash Kumar** (21 years) has managed to clinch **bronze medal** at 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships at Belgrade in Serbia.
- Akash lost 0-5 in the **54 kg category** to Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhstan. He is the **7th Indian male boxer to win a medal at the world championships**.

### 3. Mitrabha Guha becomes India's 72<sup>nd</sup> Grandmaster:

- **Mitrabha Guha**, a Kolkata-based chess player, has become **India's 72nd Grand Master** after earning his third and final Grand Master norm during a tournament in **Serbia** and **Nagpur** based teenager **Sankalp Gupta** has become India's **71st Grandmaster** by finishing second in the GM Ask 3 round-robin event in **Serbia**.
- Recently, Nagpur Based, **Divya Deshmukh** became **India's 21st Woman Grand Master** after achieving her 2nd International Master in Budapest, Hungary.
- **Grand Master (Chess)**: Grandmaster (GM) is a title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE. Apart from World Champion, Grandmaster is the highest title a chess player can attain. The abbreviation IGM for International Grandmaster is also sometimes used, particularly in older literature. To achieve the GM title, a player has to secure **three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points**.
- FIDE first awarded the Grandmaster title in **1950 to 27 players**.



**FIDE:** The **International Chess Federation** or **World Chess Federation**, commonly referred to by its French acronym FIDE is an international organization based in **Switzerland** that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of international chess competition. **FIDE was founded in Paris, France, on July 20, 1924**. Its motto is "We are one people". **President: Arkady Dvorkovich**

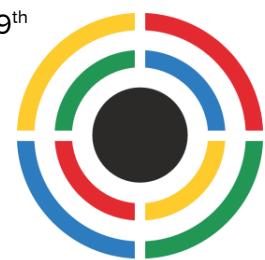
**Note: 1<sup>st</sup> Indian GM: Viswanathan Anand is India's first Grandmaster.** He became Grandmaster (GM) in **1988** at the age of eighteen.



**Youngest GM: Abhimanyu Mishra**, who is 12 year, 4 months and 25 days old became the youngest-ever Grandmaster in Chess on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Indian-Origin Abhimanyu hails from New Jersey and has shattered the previous record of **GM Sergey Karjakin**, who had become a grandmaster in 2002 aged 12 years and 7 months.

### 4. ISSF President's Cup:

- **The inaugural ISSF President's Cup Rifle & Pistol** took place from 04th to 09<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at the Shooting Range in **Wroclaw, Poland**. The inaugural ISSF President's Cup is a rechristened version of the **ISSF World Cup Finals**, it was an invitation-only tournament featuring the **top-12 shooters in each of the shotgun, pistol and rifle categories**.
- **The individual winners were awarded with the Golden Target, the Best Athlete of the Year title**.
- **Seven-member** Indian contingent participated in the event. **India** finished the ISSF president's cup with **five medals**. **Manu Bhaker** won two gold medals while **Rahi Sarnobat** won silver on the final day. **Saurabh Chaudhary** won individual silver and **Abhishek Verma** won individual bronze.
- **Manu Bhaker** won the first gold medal in **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** title with partner **Javad Foroughi** of Iran. She won the second gold on the final day partnering Turkey's **Ozgur Varlik** in the **25m Rapid Fire pistol Mixed Team** competition.
- **Rahi Sarnobat** clinched silver in women's **25m Pistol Event**.
- **Saurabh Chaudhary** also won individual silver and **Abhishek Verma**, an individual bronze, in the **Men's 10m Air Pistol** competition.



### About International Shooting Sport Federation:

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun (clay target) disciplines, and of several non-Olympic Shooting sport events. It was founded in the year **1907** as the International Shooting Union.

**HQ: Munich, Germany; President: Vladimir Lisin**

## 5. Cricket in News:

### I) Australian Cricket Team won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021:

- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021** commenced with the group stages matches starting from **17<sup>th</sup> October** and **Super 12** matches starting from **23<sup>rd</sup> October** with first match between Australia and South Africa.
- The West Indies were the defending champions but were eventually eliminated in the Super 12 stage.
- Australia cricket team has won** its first **T20 World Cup title** after beating **New Zealand** by eight wickets in the final.



**Man of the Match:** Mitchell Marsh; **Player of the Tournament:** David Warner

**Most Runs:** Babar Azam; **Most Wickets:** Wanindu Hasaranga

### About ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021:

- It was the international championship of Twenty20 International cricket. This is the **7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup**.
- The inaugural **2007 World Twenty20**, was staged in South Africa, and won by **India, who defeated Pakistan** in the final at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.
- The event has generally been held every two years. However, the next edition of the tournament was scheduled to take place in 2020 in Australia, but due to COVID-19, the tournament has been postponed to 2021, with the host changed to India, five years after the conclusion of the 2016 edition. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India, the matches were relocated to the **United Arab Emirates and Oman**.
- List of Edition wise winners:**



Year	Winner
2007	India
2009	Pakistan
2010	England
2012	West Indies
2014	Sri Lanka
2016	West Indies
2021	Australia



## About ICC:

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the **Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909** by representatives from Australia, England, and South Africa. It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965 and took up its current name in 1987.
- The **ICC has its headquarters in Dubai, UAE**. The ICC has 105 member nations currently out of which 12 Full Members that play Test matches.
- Geoff Allardice** has been appointed as the **permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the global cricket governing body**.
- The **ICC and UNICEF** are aiming to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing amongst children and adolescents and encourage greater conversation and understanding of it throughout the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021.
- #**OnYourMind campaign** at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will urge for greater commitment, connection and conversation around mental health and physical wellbeing.

## Upcoming ICC events Host (2022-2031)

**2022 Men's T20 World Cup: Venue: Australia**

**2023 Men's ODI World Cup: Venue: India**

**2020 Women's ODI World Cup: Venue: New Zealand**

**2023 Women's T20 World Cup: Venue: South Africa**

**2021–2023 ICC World Test Championship: From 4 August 2021 – 31 March 2023. Venue: Yet to be Finalised.**

**II) The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)** has released the list of **18 Cricketers** who were selected for **the MCC awards Honorary Life Membership of the Club**. The list witnessed the names of 2 former Indian cricketers – **Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath**.



**III) The International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced cricket legends **Mahela Jayawardena (Sri Lanka), Shaun Pollock (SA), and Janette Brittin (England)** were inducted into **the hall of fame**. The ICC Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history. **It was launched in the year 2009** and 106 players have been inducted since its launch.

**IV) Pakistan's Asif Ali and Ireland's Laura Delany have been voted the ICC Players of the Month for October.**

**The International Cricket Council (ICC)** presents the **ICC Player of the Month** to recognize male and female cricketers who have best performed across all forms of international cricket in a particular month. **The award was instituted in the month of January 2021.**

**First Recipients: Rishabh Pant (India) and Shabnam Ismail (South-Africa)**



## V) Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2021:

- **Tamil Nadu has lifted the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2021 by defeating Karnataka** after chasing 152. Batsman M. Shahrukh Khan smashed a dramatic last-ball six to help Tamil Nadu defend the T-20 title with a thrilling four-wicket win in the summit clash in **Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi**. This is the **third time that Tamil Nadu** has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament, having previously won it in 2006-07 and 2020-21.
- **The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a domestic Twenty20 cricket** championship in India, organized by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, among the teams from the Ranji Trophy. It is named after the famous Indian test cricketer, Syed Mushtaq Ali. **The 2006-2007 inaugural season** of this trophy was won by **Tamil Nadu under the captaincy of Dinesh Karthik** and is the most successful team.



## 6. LAWN Tennis in News:

### I) Novak Djokovic won 37th Masters Title at Paris 2021:

**Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** has defeated **Daniil Medvedev (Russia)** in the finals to win his **6th Paris Title & the record 37th Masters Title at Paris, France**. In the finals, Djokovic, with an impressive 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 defeating Daniil Medvedev.

With this win, Djokovic will remain at the ATP World Number 1 rank, for the record 7th consecutive year.



### II) Alexander Zverev won the ATP Finals title:



- **Alexander Zverev of Germany beat World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia**, 6-4, 6-4, in the men's singles finals to clinch the **2021 ATP Finals title**. This is Zverev's second Nitto ATP Finals title, after winning the first in 2018.
- **The 2021 ATP Finals** (also known as the **2021 Nitto ATP Finals** for sponsorship reasons) was a men's tennis tournament played on indoor hard courts at the **Pala Alpitour in Turin, Italy, from 14 to 21 November 2021**.
- **The ATP Finals** is the second highest tier of annual men's tennis tournaments after the four Grand Slam tournaments. The ATP Finals are the season-ending championships of the ATP Tour and feature the top eight

singles players and doubles teams of the ATP Rankings. **It started in the year 1970.**

### III) Garbine Muguruza won the 2021 WTA Finals:

- **Garbine Muguruza of Spain beat Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, 6-3, 7-5 in the final to claim her first WTA Final title held in Mexico**. Muguruza is also the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals. Muguruza battled back from a breakdown in the second set, winning the last four games of the match to seal her 10th career title.
- **The WTA Finals** (formerly known as the **WTA Tour Championships** or WTA Championships) is a tournament of the **Women's Tennis Association (WTA)** played annually at the end of the season. The event is uniquely reserved for players at the top of the WTA Rankings. **It started in the year 1972.**



## Science/Defence News

### 1. Indian Navy stealth frigate Tushil launched in Kaliningrad, Russia:

- On 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 **Seventh Indian Navy frigate of P1135.6 class** has been launched at **Yantar Shipyard at Kaliningrad in Russia**.
- It has been formally named as **INS Tushil**, a Sanskrit word which means protector shield.
- It has been developed under **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** between India and Russia in 2016 for Indian Navy for the construction of **four additional Krivak or Talwar-class frigates** (P1135.6), two ships being built in Russia at **Yantar Shipyard** and two ships being built in India at **Goa Shipyard Limited**. Following this agreement, a \$950-million deal was inked for the direct purchase.
- It will be commissioned into Indian Navy in mid-2023 followed by its sister ship by the end of 2023.



#### Weapons systems in Tushil:

- "These ships are being equipped with major Indian supplied equipment such as surface to surface missiles, sonar system, surface surveillance radar, communication suite and anti-submarine warfare system along with Russian surface to air missiles and gun mounts," the ministry mentioned.

#### Sensors:

- The ships with a potent combination of state-of-art Indian and Russian Weapons and Sensors are equipped to operate in Littoral and Blue waters, both as a single unit and as consort in a naval task force.

#### About Project 1135.6:

- It is also known as **Krivak, or Talwar-class frigates** are a class of stealth-guided missile frigates that are designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy. The first batch of the ships of Project 1135.6 was built by Baltic Shipyard and the second batch by Yantar Shipyard.
- To date, the Indian Navy already operates six of these ships namely **INS Talwar** (F40), **INS Trishul** (F43), **INS Tabar** (F44), **INS Teg** (F45), **INS Tarkash** (F50), and **INS Trikand** (F51). **INS Tushil** is the **7th Indian Navy Frigate** of Project 1135.6.

### 2. Military & Naval Exercises/Summits in News:

#### I) Exercise SHAKTI 2021:

- Navies of **India and France** will conduct **6th edition** of biennial training exercise '**EX SHAKTI 2021**' from 15th to 26th November 2021 in **Frejus, France**
- Indian Army will be represented by **Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion** and France Army will be represented by troops of **21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade**.
- The focus is on Counter Terrorism operations, military cooperation, and inter-operability.

**Note:** India and France also carry out **Exercise GARUDA** and **Exercise VARUNA**.

#### II) Iran's military began its annual war games Zolfaghgar-1400 in Gulf of Oman

- Iran's military began its annual war games "**Zolfaghgar-1400**" in the **Gulf of Oman**.
- Navy and the air force units** as well as ground forces were participating in a more than 1 million square-kilometer area east of the strategic **Strait of Hormuz**.
- The war games are aimed at "improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion."

**Note:** Nearly 20% of all oil shipping passes through the strait to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

### III) Third edition of Goa Maritime Conclave begins

- The **3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021** was held from 7th to 9th November 2021 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- **Theme for GMC 2021:** Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies.
- GMC is Indian Navy's Outreach Initiative providing a multinational platform to harness the collective wisdom of practitioners of maritime security and the academia towards garnering outcome oriented maritime thought.



### IV) 32nd Indo-Thai CORPAT

- The **32nd edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** was conducted from 12th to 14th November 2021 in **Andaman Sea**. It was a three-day bi-annual CORPAT exercise.
- Indian Navy was represented by **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk** while Royal Thai Navy participated with **Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Tayanchon**
- CORPAT builds up understanding, interoperability between navies and was conducted for 1st time in 2005 along their International Maritime Boundary Line.



### V) Third edition of Trilateral Maritime Exercise named as 'SITMEX – 21'

- SITMEX exercise will be held by the Navies of **India, Singapore, and Thailand** from 15 to 16 November 2021 in the **Andaman Sea**.
- From India, **Indian Naval Ship Karmuk** is participating, which is an indigenously built Missile Corvette.
- It is being hosted by Royal Thai Navy (RTN) to enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security.

### VI) The fifth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

 will be held from **23rd and 24th November** in Kolkata. The event is being organized by India in partnership with Australia.

- Apart from two governments, organizers include **ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System for Developing Countries** in collaboration with **National Maritime Foundation of Australia and Research Centre for East and Northeast Regional Studies, Kolkata**.

### VII) The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

 is being held in the **Indian Ocean region (IOR)** from 23rd to 24th November 2021.

- Indigenously built **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khanjar** and **Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft** is participating in the CORPAT
- Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sultan Thaha Syaifuddin, (376) is participating from Indonesia
- It was conducted for the first time in 2002.

### VIII) The 15th edition of biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti'

 by the coast guard forces of **Maldives, India and Sri Lanka** is underway in Maldives from 20th to 24th November.

- ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha participated in the exercise.
- It was introduced in **1991** between Indian and Maldives. **Sri Lanka joined the exercise in 2012.**
- **Aim:** to strengthen friendship, enhance mutual operational capabilities, interoperability, cooperation



**IX) The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs** was hosted by **French Navy at Paris from 15 – 16 Nov 21**. Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, led a two member Indian Naval delegation for this Conclave.

- The **7<sup>th</sup> edition of IONS Symposium was held at Le-Reunion from 28 Jun – 01 Jul 21** in hybrid format due to COVID protocols. During the Symposium, it was agreed upon to conduct the extant **Conclave of Chiefs at Paris**.
- **IONS was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008** as a forum which seeks to enhance maritime co-operation among Navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive platform for discussions on regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead. **Current Chair: France**

Note: Recently India virtually participated in the 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) which was hosted by **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

**About Indian Ocean Rim Association:** The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organisation consisting of **23 states bordering the Indian Ocean. It was established in the year 1997**.

The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at **Ebene, Mauritius**.

### 3. INS Visakhapatnam

#### INS Visakhapatnam:

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** received its first of four 163m-long Project 15B destroyers — to be named **INS Visakhapatnam (D66)** — from **Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai.
- It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on November 21, 2021.

#### What is the total Outlay of the Project?

- The Visakhapatnam-class (P-15B) was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design, the Indian Navy's premier organization for designing warships.
- The total outlay is ₹35,800 crore (US\$4.8 billion) for four ships (FY 2020) and ₹8,950 crore (US\$1.2 billion) per ship (FY 2020). All four ships are expected to be commissioned within 2021–2025.

#### About INS Visakhapatnam

- The Visakhapatnam-class destroyers is a class of guided-missile destroyers currently being built for the Indian Navy. The **P-15B destroyers**, are modified versions of the earlier **Kolkata-class destroyers (P-15A)**.
- The class consists of four vessels – **Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Porbandar**, all four are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).
- INS Visakhapatnam measures **163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes** and can rightfully be regarded as one of the most potent warships to have been constructed in India. The ship is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a **Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG)** configuration, capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots.
- The ship has enhanced stealth features resulting in a reduced **Radar Cross Section (RCS)** achieved through efficient shaping of hull, full beam superstructure design, plated masts and use of radar transparent materials on exposed decks.
- The ship is additionally capable of handling Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) warfare scenarios and its anti-submarine warfare capabilities are powered by rocket launchers, torpedo launchers, and ASW helicopters designed in-house. The major weapons fitted on board are SSMS (BrahMos), MR SAMs, Gun mounts (76mm SRGM and AK-630 CIWS).
- The Indian Navy's responsibilities to safeguard a large coastline of 7516 Kms and about 1100 offshore islands along with 2.01 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have been enhanced in the present geopolitical scenario. Destroyers like the P-15B class shall play an important role in the larger oceans of the Indo-Pacific, making the Indian Navy a potent force.



#### 4. INS Vela:

- **INS Vela**, the fourth submarine of **P75 of the Indian Navy**, was commissioned on 25<sup>th</sup> November by **Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh** at the naval dockyard in Mumbai. This will be the second addition to the Indian Navy's fleet of warships after INS Vishakapatnam's commissioning on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021.
- **INS Vela (S24)** is the **fourth submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines** for the Indian Navy. It is a diesel-electric attack submarine based on the Scorpene class, designed by French naval defence and energy group DCNS and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited, an Indian shipyard in Mumbai.
- Earlier, three submarines including **Kalvari, Khanderi, and Karanj** were already commissioned.

#### How did Vela get its name?

- Vela is named after a decommissioned submarine Vela, which served the Navy from 1973 to 2010. The earlier Vela belonged to Foxtrot class submarine of Soviet origin.
- Vela is also the name of an Indian fish from the stingray species known for its aggression and offensive power, and the ability to camouflage itself from predators. The submarine's crest depicts the stingray swimming across the blue seas.



#### What are the weapons on Vela?

The submarine is equipped with C303 anti torpedo countermeasure system and can carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles or 30 mines in place of torpedoes.

#### What is Project 75?

- Project 75 was conceptualised for the acquisition for 25 submarines at the time of the IK Gujral government. P 75 evolved into a 30-year plan for building submarines. **In 2005, India and France** signed a \$ 3.75 billion contract for building six Scorpene class submarines.
- The executing company on the Indian side is **Mazgaon Docks Ltd, and on the French side, it is DCNS**, which is now called Naval Group. The project has been dogged by delays and questions over the reluctance of the French government to act on the commitment for "transfer of technology" that was an integral part of the contract.

**Source: Indian Express:**

#### 5. PNS Tughril

- **PNS Tughril**, was handed over by **China to Pakistan**. It is the first of the four types of **054A/P warships being built for the Pakistan Navy**.
- PNS Tughril is the largest and most technologically advanced warship that China has ever exported.
- PNS Tughril is designed and built by **China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited (CSSC)**.
- It was delivered to the Pakistan Navy in a commissioning ceremony in Shanghai. The warship is the first among the four frigates that Beijing has committed to Islamabad, according to the deal was signed in 2017 between the two all-weather allies.



#### What are the Features of PNS Tughril?

- The ship is technologically advanced and highly capable of achieving surface-to-surface, surface-to-air and underwater strikes apart from comprehensive surveillance capabilities.
- The warship has world-class stealth capability and will not come in easy contact with any radar. It also has long-range missiles and a state-of-the-art cannon capable of firing multiple rounds in a minute.
- The warship is equipped with a state-of-the-art Battle Management System (BMS), which will enhance the combat capability of the Pakistani Navy manifold.

### What are India's concerns?

- It will become the mainstay of the Pakistan Navy's fleet, strengthening the maritime defense capabilities of the Pakistani Navy and will strengthen the capability of the Pakistani Navy to meet maritime challenges to ensure maritime defense in the Indian Ocean region.
- In addition to advanced naval ships, China has partnered with the Pakistan Air Force to make JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft.
- In addition to building its first military base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa in the Indian Ocean region, China has gained control of Pakistan's Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea, which is connected to China's Xinjiang province through the US\$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- With the modernization of the Pakistani Navy as well as gaining control of naval bases, the Chinese Navy is expected to have a wider presence in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

Source: Navalnews.com, timesnownews.com

### 6. SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission:

- US Space agency **NASA** and **SpaceX** have launched **Crew 3 mission named Endurance fixed** to Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Under this mission, 4 astronauts have been sent to **International Space Station (ISS)** for a six-month science mission until April 2022.
- **Crew 3 mission** (NASA's **Tom Marshburn** (pilot); and **Kayla Barron**, ESA astronaut **Matthias Maurer**) consists of Indian-origin NASA astronaut **Raja Chari** as its mission commander.



#### About International Space Station:

- The **International Space Station (ISS)** is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit. It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: **NASA** (United States), **Roscosmos** (Russia), **JAXA** (Japan), **ESA** (Europe), and **CSA** (Canada).
- The International Space Station (ISS) is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite, in low Earth orbit. It orbits in **Thermosphere layer, between 350 and 420 km (220 and 260 mi)**. Its first component was launched in the **year 1998**. It circles the Earth in roughly **92 minutes and completes 15.5 orbits per day**.



### 7. NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission

- The **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)** mission is directed by NASA to the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) with support from several NASA centers.
- DART probe was launched from **Vandenberg Space Force Base in California** on Nov. 24, riding a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket into the final frontier.
- In late September or early October of 2022, the 1,210-pound (550 kilograms) DART spacecraft will slam into a **small asteroid** named **Dimorphos**, changing the space rock's orbit around its larger companion, Didymos.
- Astronomers will quantify that change, gauging the effectiveness of the "kinetic impact" method of asteroid deflection — a strategy humanity might need to employ in the future against a rock that lines Earth up in its crosshairs.
- DART's target asteroid is NOT a threat to Earth. This asteroid system is a perfect testing ground to see if intentionally crashing a spacecraft into an asteroid is an effective way to change its course, should an Earth-threatening asteroid be discovered in the future.



**About NASA:** The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** is an independent agency of the U.S. federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and space research. It was founded in the year **1958**. **HQ: Washington D.C**



## 8. China National Space Administration in News:

### I) First Chinese Woman to Walk In Space:

- Astronaut **Wang Yaping** has become the first Chinese woman to walk in space. Her team completed a 6-hour stint outside the Tiangong space station as part of its ongoing construction.
- Tiangong-meaning "heavenly palace" is the latest achievement in China's drive to become a major space power.



### II) China has launched earth science satellite: "Guangmu"

- China has launched Earth science satellite named as '**Guangmu**' into space from **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province**.
- It was launched via **Long March-6 carrier rocket**.
- Guangmu**: World's first Earth-science satellite dedicated to serving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- This was 395th flight mission of Long March rocket series. It was developed by Chinese Academy of Sciences.



### III) China launched its 3rd Gaofen 11 reconnaissance satellite

- China launched its **3rd Gaofen 11 reconnaissance satellite** on November 19, 2021, on a **Long March 4B rocket (also known as Chang Zheng 4B)** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in northern China.
- The Gaofen 11 (03) satellite with an **optical resolution comparable** to top US spy satellites is an addition to China's set of classified satellites.
- The **three Gaofen-11 satellites** will be networked together, according to the Xi'an Branch of China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) under CASC, which developed the satellite data transmission and relay subsystems.
- The Gaofen 11 (03) is the third in a series of high-resolution optical imaging Gaofen 11 satellites. The first in the series of Gaofen 11 namely Gaofen 11 (01) was launched in July 2016 followed by Gaofen 11 (02) in September 2020.
- The Gaofen 11 (03) satellite will operate in sun-synchronous orbits. It will be primarily used for land surveys, land rights confirmation, road network design, city planning, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and mitigation.



#### About China National Space Administration & China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation:

- China National Space Administration** is the national space agency of the People's Republic of China, responsible for the national space program and for planning and development of space activities. It was founded in the year **1993**. **HQ: Beijing**
- The **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** is the main contractor for the Chinese space program. It is state-owned and has a number of subordinate entities which design, develop and manufacture a range of spacecraft, launch vehicles, strategic and tactical missile systems, and ground equipment. It was officially established in July **1999**. **HQ: Beijing**



## 9. Skyroot Aerospace successfully tests cryogenic engine:

Spacetech start-up **Skyroot Aerospace** on 25<sup>th</sup> November, announced that it has successfully tested **Dhawan-1**, which it claims to be the country's **first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine**.

#### About Dhawan-1:



- Skyroot has named its cryogenic engine- '**Dhawan-1**' in honour of eminent Indian Rocket scientist Dr. **Satish Dhawan**.
- The engine runs on two high performance rocket propellants- **Liquid Natural gas (LNG) & Liquid Oxygen (LoX)**. The test was conducted at **Solar Industries India Ltd. in Nagpur**.
- It is a completely 'Made-in-India' cryogenic engine developed using 3D printing with a superalloy, reducing manufacturing time by more than 95 per cent".
- Cryogenic engines** use liquefied gasses at temperatures as low as -150oC as propellants. They are highly efficient and can aid rockets in carrying heavier payloads. India's heaviest launch vehicles – GSLV and GSLV Mk III – use cryogenic fuel in the upper stage of the launch vehicle.



- Cryogenic engines are one of the hardest to develop and so far only six countries have these launch vehicles including the **US, China, Russia, France, Japan, and India**. India used its first GSLV in 2001.

#### Skyroot Aerospace:

**Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited** is an Indian private aerospace manufacturer and commercial launch service provider headquartered in **Hyderabad**. The company was founded by former engineers and scientists from ISRO.

- It was founded in the year **2018** and aims to develop and launch its own series of small lift launch vehicles especially crafted for the small satellite market.
- On 2 February 2021, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Skyroot Aerospace** signed a **non-disclosure agreement (NDA)**. The NDA will allow Skyroot Aerospace to access the facilities and technical expertise in ISRO centers to develop their launch vehicles.
- Skyroot Aerospace was ranked **7th on this LinkedIn's 2021 Top Startups List in India**.

### 10. India successfully launched the 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica:

- India has successfully launched the **41st Scientific Expedition** with the arrival of the first batch of its contingent at the southern white continent.
- The first batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached the **Indian Antarctic Station Maitri** on 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- Four more batches will be landing in Antarctica by air using DROMLAN facility and onboard chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasiliiy Golovnin by mid-January 2022.



**About the Programme:** The 41st expedition has **two major programmes**.

- The first programme encompasses geological exploration of the Amery iceshelf at Bharati Station. This will help explore the link between India and Antarctica in the past.
- The second program involves reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri. It will help in improving the understanding of Antarctic climate, westerly winds, sea-ice and greenhouse gases from a single climate archive for past 10,000 years.
- The ice core drilling will be done in collaboration with the British Antarctic Survey and the Norwegian Polar Institute. In addition to accomplishing scientific programs, it will replenish the annual supplies of food, fuel, provisions, and spares for operations and maintenance of life support systems at Maitri and Bharati.

#### About Antarctica:

- Antarctica is the fifth-largest continent in terms of total area. Antarctica is a unique continent in that it does not have a native population. Several nations including New Zealand, Australia, France, Norway, the United Kingdom, Chile and Argentina claim different parts of it.

#### Antarctica Treaty:

- Use of Antarctica for scientific studies and for other activities is governed by the Antarctic Treaty that was signed on **1 December 1959** by the twelve nation countries. The treaty applies to all land and ice-shelves south of 60-degree South Latitude.
- It promotes the peaceful research and prohibits military activities, nuclear tests and the disposal of nuclear wastes. India became the member of the Treaty in the year **1983**.

#### Indian Antarctic Program:

- The Indian Antarctic program began in **1981**. So far, it has completed 40 scientific expeditions and built three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named **Dakshin Gangotri (1983)**, **Maitri (1988)** and **Bharati (2012)**.
- As of today, Maitri and Bharati are fully operational. Dakshin Gangotri, the first Indian Scientific research base station in Antarctica acts only as a supply base.
- These are being operated under the National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.



**Source:** The mint



## Important One Liners Questions (November 2021)

### Important News – India

1. Who has launched the "Dairy Sahakar" scheme at Anand, Gujarat \_\_\_\_\_ **Amit Shah.**
2. Which Shatabdi Express becomes the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified Shatabdi \_\_\_\_\_ **Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express.**
3. What is the theme 14th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021 inaugurated by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep S. Puri \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobility for All.**
4. Ramky Enviro has inaugurated one of the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad.**
5. Ramky Enviro has inaugurated one of the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad.**
6. Which Organisation developed 'Ganga Atlas: River of the Past' that was launched during the 5th Ganga Utsav \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Kanpur.**
7. Who will head the 22-members technology innovation group on sixth generation or 6G formed by the Department of Telecommunications \_\_\_\_\_ **K Rajaraman.**
8. What is India's rank in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium \_\_\_\_\_ **18<sup>th</sup>.**
9. Which Indian city has been included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) with a special mention for its craft and folk art \_\_\_\_\_ **Srinagar.**
10. Who has inaugurated the 14th edition of 'c0c0n', an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Conference \_\_\_\_\_ **Bipin Rawat.**
11. What is the theme of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Atmbirbhar Bharat.**
12. What is India's rank in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26 \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup>.**
13. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' to mark the birth anniversary of \_\_\_\_\_ **Birsa Munda.**

14. World's longest bi-lane road tunnel called "Sela Tunnel" is being built in which state/union territories of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh.**
15. First-ever National Yogasana Championship was held in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhubaneswar.**
16. Who lead the Indian delegation in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Hardeep Singh Puri.**
17. According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group which becomes the most polluted city of the world \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi.**
18. Which number of scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been launched by India recently \_\_\_\_\_ **41<sup>st</sup>.**
19. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is located in which place \_\_\_\_\_ **Vasco da Gama, Goa.**
20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Purvanchal Expressway at Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, what is the length of the expressway \_\_\_\_\_ **341 km.**
21. Which international airport has partnered with Microsoft India to launch a 'Hackathon' to develop an app using Microsoft Azure \_\_\_\_\_ **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.**
22. First-of-its-kind pod hotel has been inaugurated in which railway station \_\_\_\_\_ **Mumbai Central station.**
23. Which of the following cities has been named as the cleanest city of India by Swachh Survekshan 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Indore.**
24. What is India's rank in the list of global bribery risk rankings in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **82<sup>nd</sup>.**
25. Which ministry has decided to establish a Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Coal Ministry.**
26. Which government scheme has completed five years of its implementation \_\_\_\_\_ **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin.**
27. Which organization will organize its flagship event titled 'Connect 2021', a international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu \_\_\_\_\_ **CII.**



28. Which city plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds \_\_\_\_\_ **El Salvador.**
29. Which city tops the list of cities scoring highest on urban 2021 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index released by the NITI Aayog \_\_\_\_\_ **Shimla.**
30. Name the theme-based tourist circuit trains that was announced by the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav to tap the vast tourism potential of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Gaurav Trains.**
31. PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Noida International Airport in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, with this Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have how many international airports \_\_\_\_\_ **five.**
32. Which brand has emerged as the most purposeful brands in the technology category in the 2021 edition of Kantar's annual BrandZ India report \_\_\_\_\_ **Amazon.**
33. Who inaugurated the 1st India Internet Governance Forum 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashwini Vaishnav.**
34. As per the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the NITI Aayog which state has emerged as the poorest state in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bihar.**
35. The 7th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in \_\_\_\_\_ **Panaji, Goa.**

#### Important News – State

- Which state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI), scoring 70 points out of 100 and is included in 'Front runner' category \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka.**
- Union Minister, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has inaugurated first virtual Internet Exchange of NIXI in which city of Uttarakhand \_\_\_\_\_ **Dehradun.**
- Which of the following state has topped Public Affairs Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala.**
- 1,000-megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project was inaugurated in which state/union territories \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu & Kashmir.**
- Which state government has launched Janasevaka and Janaspandana scheme for doorstep delivery and complaint portal for citizens \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka.**
- Which state topped in the third LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021 report \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat.**

- Which is the partner state of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Bihar.**
- Which state government has launched a first of its kind road safety initiative named as 'Rakshak', to train first responders of road accidents \_\_\_\_\_ **Odisha.**
- With which state's Inland Water Transport (IWT) dept, the World Bank has signed an MoU of Rs 770 crore loan to improve river transportation in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Assam.**
- A new Biotechnology Centre for Northeast tribals has been inaugurated in which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh.**
- India's first 'Grass Conservatory' was inaugurated in which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand.**
- Which state has approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Which state with over 100 urban local bodies has bagged first rank in Swachh Survekshan 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Chhattisgarh.**
- Which state government has unveiled a career portal aimed at providing professional guidance to students of schools and colleges of the State \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab.**
- Which state's cabinet has given its approval to start Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana to connect educated youths of the State with self-employment \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**
- Which state was adjudged best performer in inland fisheries in the country by the central government \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana.**
- Which state was named the best marine state in the country by the Centre \_\_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh.**
- Which state government has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh.**
- Which state's tourism department will launch the Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism 'STREET' project to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala.**
- Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Manipur.**

#### Important News – World

- Which country has launched an online dashboard - the 'Climate Equity Monitor' to assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions besides energy and resource consumption across the world \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**



2. Which country has returned about 250 antiquities worth \$15 million to India in a long-running investigation of a stolen art scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.
3. G20 Leaders' Summit 2021 concluded recently. What is the moto of the G20 Summit 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **People, Planet, and Prosperity**.
4. Which country has inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant \_\_\_\_\_ **South Korea**.
5. Which Prime Minister has launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Modi**.
6. Which country has unveiled a coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom**.
7. Which neighbouring country has issued an Letter of Exchange (LoE) with India to formalize 7 additional Entry – exit trade points \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhutan**.
8. Which country ranked first in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium \_\_\_\_\_ **Norway**.
9. Which becomes the 101st member country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.
10. Who has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan in the parliamentary elections held on 10th November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Fumio Kishida**.
11. Which country placed as the highest ranked country in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26 \_\_\_\_\_ **Denmark**.
12. Which country will host the upcoming session of the conference COP27 in 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Egypt**.
13. Which country has assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at its 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh**.
14. Which country successfully test-fired the 'Zircon' Hypersonic Cruise Missile \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.
15. Which country will host a summit of Foreign and Development Ministers from G7 in December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **United Kingdom**.
16. Fifth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Kolkata**.
17. Which Intergovernmental body has approved a USD 1.5 billion (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement \_\_\_\_\_ **Asian Development Bank**.
18. Which country has become the world's newest republic \_\_\_\_\_ **Barbados**.
19. Which country has hosted the 9th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhutan**.
20. Which country announced new commitments worth more than €1.2 billion, or Rs 10,025 crore, to India to support its fight against climate change \_\_\_\_\_ **Germany**.

### Economic & Financial Awareness

1. Which become the world's most valuable public company \_\_\_\_\_ **Microsoft**.
2. Which institutions has released report titled 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle' highlighting the gaps in the health insurance coverage with solutions \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog**.
3. Which oil company will set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Oil Corporation**.
4. Which international internet company has registered its business in India and planning to launch internet services in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Starlink**.
5. Which digital payment company has launched tokenization solution named as 'SafeCard' for online debit and credit card transactions \_\_\_\_\_ **PhonePe**.
6. Which technology company has launched a new company in London titled as Isomorphic Labs, that will aim to use artificial intelligence for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research \_\_\_\_\_ **Alphabet**.
7. Under what theme the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) going to organize its first global hackathon "HARBINGER 2021-Innovation for Transformation" \_\_\_\_\_ **'Smarter Digital Payments'**.
8. Which social media giant has announced the launch of 'Grow Your Business Hub', a one-stop destination for the micro, small, and medium businesses to find relevant information, tools, and resources curated to cater to their business goals based on their growth journey \_\_\_\_\_ **Meta**.

9. Who launched RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" by integrating which of the following schemes \_\_\_\_\_ **Narendra Modi.**
10. Which IIT will collaborate with Oil India Limited (OIL) on the development and introduction of new technologies energy, and related sectors \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Guwahati.**
11. Which Indian Motor company has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative \_\_\_\_\_ **TVS Motor.**
12. Which Bank and PVR Cinemas launched a co-branded movie debit card \_\_\_\_\_ **Kotak Mahindra Bank.**
13. According to World Bank data which country becomes the world's largest recipient of remittances worth \$87 billion a gain of 4.6 per cent from previous year \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**
14. How much remittance amount has been received by India as per the report titled 'Migration and Development Brief 35' \_\_\_\_\_ **\$87 billion.**
15. Which Bank has been named the world's most important bank to the health of the wider financial system, according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders released by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries \_\_\_\_\_ **JPMorgan Chase.**
16. According to a recent Sequoia India and Boston Consulting Group report, the mobile gaming market in India is estimated to become a \$5 billion market by \_\_\_\_\_ **2025.**
17. According to Moody's what will the India's GDP growth in fiscal year 2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_ **9.3%.**
18. Which is the new base year on which Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) \_\_\_\_\_ **2016.**
19. Which bank has committed has loans worth \$100 million for domestic manufacturers of Covid-19 vaccines \_\_\_\_\_ **Exim Bank.**
20. After Air India in a second major disinvestment, the central government has approved the 100 percent strategic disinvestment of which central public sector company \_\_\_\_\_ **Central Electronics Limited.**

#### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the new chief executive of KPMG India for a four-year term \_\_\_\_\_ **Yezdi Nagporewalla.**
2. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ashok Bhushan.**

3. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries to review and monitor PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) \_\_\_\_\_ **Cabinet Secretary.**
4. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Barclays with immediate effect \_\_\_\_\_ **CS Venkatakrishnan.**
5. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) \_\_\_\_\_ **R. Hari Kumar.**
6. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Novo Nordisk India to create awareness on better diabetes management and early insulin adoption \_\_\_\_\_ **Kapil Dev.**
7. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) \_\_\_\_\_ **Satya Narayan Pradhan.**
8. Morinari Watanabe belong to which country who has been re-elected as the President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) for a period of three year \_\_\_\_\_ **Japan.**
9. Who has been appointed as the Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) \_\_\_\_\_ **Atul Karwal.**
10. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sheel Vardhan Singh.**
11. Who has been named the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) \_\_\_\_\_ **Daniel Brühl.**
12. Who has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term, in a hard-fought election at the United Nation \_\_\_\_\_ **Bimal Patel.**
13. Who has been appointed as Team India's T20 International captain \_\_\_\_\_ **Rohit Sharma.**
14. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Rajya Sabha \_\_\_\_\_ **PC Mody.**
15. Who has been named as the next head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) \_\_\_\_\_ **VVS Laxman.**
16. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the global cricket governing body \_\_\_\_\_ **Saurav Ganguly.**
17. Who has been appointed as the permanent CEO of International Cricket Council (ICC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Geoff Allardice.**
18. Magdalena Andersson becomes first female prime minister of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Sweden.**
19. Who has been elected as a delegate for Asia on the executive committee of the Interpol \_\_\_\_\_ **Praveen Sinha.**



20. Who has been appointed as the chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Vivek Johri**.
21. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ **Parag Agrawal**.

### Honor & Awards

1. Which word has been selected as the Oxford English Dictionary's 2021 Word of the Year \_\_\_\_\_ **Vax**.
2. Who has been bestowed with the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020' for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure \_\_\_\_\_ **Priyanka Mohite**.
3. How many Padma awards has been awarded this year by the President Ram Nath Kovind \_\_\_\_\_ **119**.
4. Who has won the prestigious Booker Prize 2021 for fiction for his novel 'The Promise' \_\_\_\_\_ **Damon Galgut**.
5. Who became India's seventh woman billionaire and the wealthiest self-made billionaire \_\_\_\_\_ **Falguni Nayar**.
6. Veteran cricketer Dwayne Bravo is associated with which country who announced his retirement from international cricket \_\_\_\_\_ **West Indies**.
7. Who has won the Mexico City Grand Prix 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Max Verstappen**.
8. Who has become India's 72nd chess Grand Master by bagging his third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia \_\_\_\_\_ **Mitrabha Guha**.
9. Who has won 2021 Rolex Paris Masters final title \_\_\_\_\_ **Novak Djokovic**.
10. Which country has won their maiden T20 World Cup title held the Dubai International Stadium \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia**.
11. Women's cricket T20 tournament will be making its debut in which games event \_\_\_\_\_ **2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham**.
12. Which of the following pairs will be awarded the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the 52nd International Film Festival of India 2021 in Goa \_\_\_\_\_ **Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi**.
13. Which organization has been awarded with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Pratham**.
14. Who has been awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Abhinandan Varthaman**.

15. Which of the following has won the International Emmy Awards 2021 for Drama series \_\_\_\_\_ **Tehran**.
16. Which film has won the Golden Peacock Award at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Ringu Wandering**.
17. Which film won the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Lingui, The Sacred Bonds**.

### Sports News

1. Pairing with whom Indian ace table tennis player Manika Batra clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia \_\_\_\_\_ **Archana Girish Kamath**.
2. Nagpur based teenager Sankalp Gupta has become India's \_\_\_\_\_ Grandmaster \_\_\_\_\_ **71<sup>st</sup>**.
3. Name the Indian women shooter who has won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the inaugural ISSF President's Cup with Iran's Javad Foroughi \_\_\_\_\_ **Manu Bhaker**.
4. Which country will host the 2025 ICC Men's Champions Trophy \_\_\_\_\_ **Pakistan**.
5. Garbiñe Muguruza held from which country who has won her first WTA Finals Championship \_\_\_\_\_ **Spain**.
6. Which state's school and higher education department have won the prestigious SKOCH GOLD awards \_\_\_\_\_ **West Bengal**.
7. In which year India and Bangladesh will jointly host the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup \_\_\_\_\_ **2031**.
8. Which team has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.
9. Who has been elected as the first woman president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) \_\_\_\_\_ **Harshwanti Bisht**.
10. Who has won 2021 ATP Finals title, after defeating World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia \_\_\_\_\_ **Alexander Zverev**.

### Science and Defence

1. India has launched First Manned Ocean Mission 'Samudrayan' at Chennai. So far five other countries have launched such mission, which one is not among them \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia**.
2. DRDO and Indian Air Force have carried out two successful flight tests of indigenously-developed SAAW. What is the full form of SAAW \_\_\_\_\_ **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon**.

3. "Zolfaghar-1400" is an annual military exercise of which country that was conducted in Gulf of Oman recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Iran**.
4. Which country has launched Earth science satellite named as 'Guangmu' into space \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
5. Indian navy conducted 6th edition of the biennial training exercise 'EX SHAKTI 2021' with navy of which other country \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.
6. India has conducted 32nd edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise with which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Thailand**.
7. Which country has begun the delivery of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems to India \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia**.
8. India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-21 was conducted in which place \_\_\_\_\_ **Andaman Sea**.
9. Which Indian airlines has announced the purchase of CFM LEAP-1B engines to power its recently purchased Boeing 737 MAX airplanes \_\_\_\_\_ **Akasa Air**.
10. India's first Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) project will come up in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.
11. Name the Indigenously developed missile destroyer that was commissioned into Indian Navy in Mumbai \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Visakhapatnam**.
12. Four-days Mega military exercise 'Sagar Shakti' was conducted in which place \_\_\_\_\_ **Kutch peninsula**.
13. The 15th edition of biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' was conducted by the coast guard forces of which three countries \_\_\_\_\_ **India, Sri Lanka and Maldives**.
14. What is the name that has been given to India's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine that was successfully tested by spacetech start-up Skyroot Aerospace \_\_\_\_\_ **Dhawan-1**.
15. Which space agency has launched world's first Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it \_\_\_\_\_ **NASA**.
16. Name the fourth indigenously built Scorpene-class submarine of Project P-71 that was commissioned by Indian Navy recently \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Vela**.
17. Name the new docking module launched by the Russian rocket Soyuz that blasted off successfully to the International Space Station \_\_\_\_\_ **Prichal**



## CLAT 2021



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## Passage Based Practice Questions

### Passage-01

**Direction:** Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Indian Police Foundation constructed a survey framework to measure citizens' perceptions from a perspective of public trust in police, says report.

IPF constructed a survey framework to measure citizens' perceptions from a perspective of public trust in police. Trust was identified as the overarching element of the SMART policing vision," the survey report said.

The SMART scores are set on a scale of 1 to 10 and are indicative of the levels of citizen satisfaction, a score of 10 being the highest level of satisfaction.

"Despite being attacked for insufficient sensitivity, declining public confidence and growing concerns about the quality of policing, a majority of citizens [a weighted average of 66.93%] believes that the police are doing their job well and strongly support the police," the report said. 19 States/UTs scored an index value between six and seven, while three States scored between five and six. The survey covered over 1.6 lakh respondents.

**Source:** Article taken and edited from *The Hindu*, "Smart Policing Index 2021", dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**1. According to a nationwide survey conducted by Indian Police Foundation (IPF), police in which of the following two states scored the lowest among all States when it came to perception of "sensitivity"?**

- A. Maharashtra & Gujarat
- B. Bihar & Odisha
- C. Bihar & Goa
- D. Bihar & Uttar Pradesh

**2.Which policing idea was envisioned, articulated and introduced by the Indian PM at the Conference of DGPs of State and Central Police Organizations, held at Guwahati, in the year 2014?**

- A. SMART Policing
- B. CLEVER Policing
- C. COURAGEOUS Policing
- D. VERSATILE Policing

**3.Which of the following two states are the top two in the list of SMART Policing Index 2021?**

- A. Maharashtra & Gujarat
- B. Punjab & Haryana
- C. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana
- D. Telangana & Karnataka

**4.For the year 2021, which police station in the Capital (Delhi) was the best police station across the country this year?**

- A. Sadar Bazar Police Station
- B. Shahadra Police Station
- C. Anand Prabat Police Station
- D. Jama Masjid Police Station

**5.The ranking of police stations across the country is an annual exercise by?**

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of External Affairs
- C. Prime Minister's Office
- D. Central Bureau of Investigation



## Passage-02

**Direction:** Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Before Jair Bolsonaro's term began in January 2019, the Brazilian Amazon hadn't recorded a single year with more than 10,000 square kilometers of deforestation in over a decade

The area deforested in Brazil's Amazon reached a 15-year high, according to official data published. The National Institute for Space Research's Prodes monitoring system showed the Brazilian Amazon lost 13,235 square kilometers of rainforest in the 12-month reference period from August 2020 to July 2021. That's the most since 2006.

The 15-year high flies in the face of Bolsonaro government's recent attempts to shore up its environmental credibility, having made overtures to the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and moved forward its commitment to end illegal deforestation at the United Nations climate summit. Before Jair Bolsonaro's term began in January 2019, the Brazilian Amazon hadn't recorded a single year with more than 10,000 square kilometers of deforestation in over a decade. Between 2009 and 2018, the average was 6,500 square kilometers. Since then, the annual average leapt to 11,405 square kilometers, and the three-year total is an area bigger than the State of Maryland.

*Source: Article taken and edited from The Hindu, "Brazil's Amazon deforestation surges to worst in 15 years", dated November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**6. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held at?**

- A. Paris
- B. Glasgow
- C. Scotland
- D. Switzerland

**7. Recently, it was found that the area deforested in Brazil's Amazon reached a 15-year high after a "X" % jump from the prior year (2020). What is "X"?**

- A. 20 %
- B. 22 %
- C. 25 %
- D. 30 %

**8. Amazon forest is which type of forest?**

- A. Tropical Deciduous Forest
- B. Deciduous rainforest
- C. Evergreen Forest
- D. Tropical rainforest

**9. Which of the following is/are not the drivers of deforestation in the Amazon?**

- A. Cattle Ranching & Small-Scale Agriculture
- B. Small-Scale Agriculture & Fires
- C. Industrial Agriculture Operations & Mining
- D. Soil Erosion and Draughts

**10. Which of the following State has the largest forest cover in India?**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

**###ANSWERS###**

1. D	2. A	3. C	4. A	5. A	6. B	7. B	8. D	9. D	10. C
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## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### **World Vegan Day 2021: 1st November**

The day is celebrated to promote vegan diet. The event was started in 1994 by then Chair of The Vegan Society, Louise Wallis, UK.

This year people will celebrate the 77 years of World Vegan Day.

### **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists: 2nd November**

The day was recognized by UN General Assembly in December 2013 to mark the death of Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon, two French journalists killed while reporting in Mali.

### **National Cancer Awareness Day: 7th November**

To create awareness about the prevention and early detection of cancer.

The day was first observed in 2014, marking the birth anniversary of the eminent and renowned scientist Marie Curie.

### **World Tsunami Awareness Day: 5 November**

To highlight the dangers of tsunami and to focus on the importance of early warning systems to minimise the damage caused due to natural hazards. This day also provides traditional knowledge about tsunamis.

### **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict: 6 November**

The UN General Assembly declared 6 November as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

### **National Legal Services Day: 9th November**

To commemorate the enactment of Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted to provide free Legal Services.

### **World Science Day for Peace and Development: 10 November**

It is observed on 10 November to highlight the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.

### **National Education Day 11 November**

It is observed on 11 November annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He served as the first education minister of independent India from 1947 to 1958.

### **World Pneumonia Day 12 November**

World Pneumonia Day is observed on 12 November to raise awareness about Pneumonia and its prevention. It is the world's leading infectious disease children below 5 years are much more affected.

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

### **Children's Day 14 November**

Children's Day is celebrated on 14 November in India and is also known as Bal Divas. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.

### **International Day for Tolerance 16 November**

International Day for Tolerance is observed on 16 November to raise awareness about strengthening tolerance by encouraging mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.

**World Toilet Day  
19 November**  
World Toilet Day is observed on 19 November annually to inspire people about tackling the issue of the global sanitation crisis and to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030.

### **World Television Day 21 November**

World Television Day is celebrated on 21 November every year. According to the UN, this day highlights the major role that television plays in daily life by presenting different issues that affect people.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November**

It defines violence against women as an act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats, etc.

**Constitution Day of India  
26 November**  
Law day is also known as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas. It is observed on 26 November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. India adopted the Constitution of India on 26 November, 1949.

### **26 November National Milk Day**

It is observed on 26 November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution.

### **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People: 29 November**

To mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the UN Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on November 29, 1947.

**Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare:  
30 November**  
It marks tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

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